MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Hotel William Penn, Pittsburgh, Pa., October 11 and 13, 1955

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RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

General Council members present:

Dr. James E. Wagner, chairman; Dr. W. Sherman Kerschner, secretary; Mr. Allan G. Aigler, Dr. Harry D. Althouse, Mr. Herbert W. Beutel, Mr. Samuel C. Bond, Jr., Mr. Carl Bosch, Mrs. E. Roy Corman, Dr. John R. C. Haas, Dr. Ben M. Herbster, Dr. F. A. Keck, Dr. Erwin R. Koch, Dr. Emil N. Krafft, Mrs. Milton C. Lang, Dr. John Lentz, Dr. Roy W. Limbert, Dr. John W. Mueller, Dr. Robert C. Stanger, Mr. Harold F. Webber and Mr. Joseph C. Wetzel.

Advisory members present:

Dr. L. W. Goebel, President Emeritus of the Church; Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Administrative Assistant to the President of the Church; the following representatives of boards and agencies of the Church: Dr. Purd E. Deitz (National Missions), Dr. Dobbs F. Ehlman, International Missions), Dr. Franklin I. Sheeder (Christian Education and Publication), Dr. Robert C. Kienle (Business Management), Dr. Fred C. Schweinfurth (Evangelism), Dr. Huber F. Klemme (Christian Social Action), Dr. James W. Bright (Stewardship), Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich (World Service), Rev. Harold H. Wilke (Church and Ministry), Rev. A. H. Meyer (Benevolent Institutions), Dr. Carl W. Klein, Dr. L. C. T. Miller, Rev. Oscar J. Rumpf and Dr. Perry L. Smith (United Promotion), Rev. J. Kenneth Kohler (Churchmen's Brotherhood), Mrs. Guy A. Benchoff and Dr. Florence A. Partridge (Women's Guild), Dr. Theodore C. Braun ("The Messenger") and Dr. Alexander Toth ("Reformatusok Lapja").

Visitors:

Dr. A. R. Keppel, Rev. August C. Peeler, Mr. William R. Pelster, representatives of the Churchmen's Brotherhood, and Dr. Owen M. Walton, executive secretary of the Greater Pittsburgh Council of Churches.

The General Council convened at 9:10 a.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

At President Wagner's request, President Emeritus L. W. Goebel conducted a service in memory of Dr. George W. Richards, first President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, who died on June 11, 1955. After reading passages from I Thessalonians which held a special significance in relation to Dr. Richards' character and ministry, Dr. Goebel extolled his consecrated and fruitful labors as pastor, theologian, teacher, administrator and ecumenical statesman. At the conclusion of this tribute to a beloved and honored leader he led the members of the General Council in prayer.

AGENDA; HOURS FOR SESSIONS

The General Council VOTED to adopt the agenda prepared by the Secretary, following which it fixed the hours for the several sessions of this meeting.

MINUTES

Secretary Kerschner presented the minutes of the meeting which had been held at New Orleans, La., February 8 and 10, 1955, and cited two items on which report should be made at this meeting.

Winnebago Indian School (page 12, item 22). Dr. Deitz stated that as a step toward making the Winnebago Indian School a benevolent institution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church a benevolent corporation had been organized and had been chartered by the State of Wisconsin and that the Board of National Missions was prepared to negotiate with this group in setting up the proposed benevolent institution.

Garrett Fund (page 17). Dr. Sheeder reported that the Board of Christian Education and Publication had joined with the Christian Education Boards of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist Churches in petitioning the court to revise the provisions for administering the Garrett Fund and that the matter was in the hands of legal counsel.

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the meeting held February 8 and 10, 1955.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Kerschner presented as the report of the Administrative Committee the minutes of meetings held April 13 and June 20, 1955.

April meeting

1956 fall meeting of the General Council (page 2). The General Council VOTED to adopt a recommendation of the Administrative Committee that the Council meet as committees on October 16 and in plenary session on October 17, 1956, to deal with matters referred to it by the 1956 General Synod.

Approval of appointment (page 5). President Wagner having reported that the Boards of National Missions and International Missions had concurred with the Board of Christian Education and Publication in the selection of Dr. Jerome Jay Fussell for the post of Missions Editor of the Department of Missionary Education, the General Council VOTED to confirm the action of the Administrative Committee approving this appointment and the proposed salary of $4500 and housing allowance of $1200.

Approval of contributions payable from the unallocated balance of the apportionment overage (page 6). Dr. Wagner stated that a contribution of $2820 to the National Conference on Social Welfare and a contribution of $5000 to the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches had been approved informally at the annual meeting of the General Council but had not been included in the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget nor voted upon by the General Council. In order to put these agreements on record and provide authorization for the Treasurer to make the payments the Administrative Committee had taken the action now before the General Council. The Council VOTED to confirm the action of the Administrative Committee authorizing the payments of the amounts in question from the unallocated balance of the apportionment overage.

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held April 13, 1955.

June meeting

Proposal for expansion of the Historical Society (page 1). Dr. Stanger, chairman of the special committee appointed to represent the General Council in conferring with the Historical Committee regarding a proposal for expansion of the Historical Society on a nation-wide scale, reported that the Historical Committee at a meeting held early in September had reiterated both its proposal and its request for an appropriation to finance the project. The committee met without its chairman, Dr. Carl E. Schneider, who was in Europe, and of the General Council's special committee only Dr. Charles D. Spotts was able to be present. The plans for expansion of the Historical Society include the publication of a historical journal. It is questionable, however, whether there is sufficient need or demand for such a journal to justify the expense of publishing it. The General Council, believing that the entire project must be explored further before a definite recommendation concerning it could be submitted to the General Synod, directed the special committee to consult with the Historical Committee at a time when Dr. Schneider could be present.

Gift of Eden Publishing House to the Board of National Missions (page 4). The Council VOTED to approve the proposed gift of $5,000 from Eden Publishing House to the Board of National Missions.

Ambiguity of General Council action (page 5). The General Council VOTED to confirm the judgment of the Administrative Committee that when the Council at its annual meeting approved recommendations of the Committee on Finance and Budget for changes in salaries and rental allowances for the "next fiscal year" it had in mind the fiscal year which had just begun.

Privilege of call (page 5). Dr. Wagner submitted biographical data concerning Rev. William W. Hall and Rev. Marvin E. Rickert, who had been granted privilege of call by the Administrative Committee. The General Council VOTED to confirm the privilege of call granted to these applicants.

Licensure of Wilbur D. Cook (page 6). The General Council amended the action of the Administrative Committee in this instance by substituting the word "ordination" for "privilege of call" and then VOTED to adopt the action as amended. As amended and adopted the action provides "that Mr. Cook be granted licensure and that, in addition, he be granted temporary license to serve the Reedsburg Charge of Southeast Ohio Synod for the period June 26, 1955, to June 26, 1956, so that he will have completed one year of probationary service when he makes application for ordination."

Request of Susquehanna Synod (page 7). The General Council VOTED to approve the action of the Administrative Committee directing the Committee on Constitutional Matters to study the whole question of the status of a former minister of our Church with a view to formulating a by-law governing the matter.

Approval of appointments and salaries (page 8). The Council VOTED to confirm the appointment of Mr. Stanley Wilke as Director of the Department of Missionary Education of the Board of Christian Education and Publication and to approve the recommendation of the

Administrative Committee that in view of Mr. Wilke's status as a layman his remuneration be set at $6,200 a year without division into salary and rental allowance.

The Council VOTED to confirm the appointment of Rev. William E. Wimer as Director of Adult Work and Family Life and the appointment of Miss Lael Henderson as editor of Junior High Publications. In so doing it took cognizance of the fact that at its annual meeting it had approved the remuneration of Mr. Wimer and Miss Henderson but that in the meantime each of them had been assigned to a different post, with no change in remuneration.

Request of the Commission on Stewardship (page 8). After discussing the request of the Commission on Stewardship for permission to employ a full-time executive secretary the General Council VOTED that a special committee be appointed to study the matter and report later in this meeting. Dr. Wagner appointed Dr. Stanger, Dr. Limbert and Mr. Webber as the special committee.

Transfer of First Hungarian Church, McKeesport, Pa. (page 8). The General Council VOTED to approve the transfer of this church from Pittsburgh Synod to Magyar Synod, the congregation and the two synods having given their consent.

Transfer of First Magyar Reformed Church of New York City (page 8). Dr. Wagner reported that he had no recent information concerning the settlement of this church's financial obligation to its former pastor, Dr. Geza Takaro, and that he was still awaiting the receipt of a copy of the terms of settlement with Dr. Takaro's signature affixed. The General Council, though it had gone on record as disapproving the practice by which Magyar Synod congregations were transferred to regional synods and later back to Magyar Synod, as occasioned by the occurrence and settlement of disputes with that synod, was sensible of the fact that prior to the enunciation of its position on this matter the constitutional requirements for transfer had been fulfilled by the First Magyar Reformed Church of New York City and by New York and Magyar Synods. It therefore VOTED to approve the transfer of the congregation back to Magyar Synod.

The Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held June 20, 1955.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

Dr. Herbster, chairman of the Committee on Procedures, stated that recommendations made by the committee at the New Orleans meeting of the General Council would be put into operation at this meeting as an experiment and that a final report would be presented by the committee next February.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

The General Council approved the appointment of Dr. Herbster, Mrs. Corman and Mr. Bond as the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wagner delegated the chairmanship of the meeting to the First Vice-President, Dr. Stanger. Mimeographed copies of his report having been distributed, together with certain supplementary material, he called attention to the latter, namely, an article,

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (cont.)

"Exploring the Pending Merger," by Dr. Frederick L. Herzog, the program for the installation of the full-time president of Lehigh Synod, the cover of which carried an emblem originally designed to commemorate the occurrence in the year 1941 of the 100th anniversary of the Evangelical Synod of N. A., the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in this country, and the 215th anniversary of the Reformed Church in the U. S., and, lastly, a reproduction of the seal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

As addenda to his report Dr. Wagner presented the following items: a request of Magyar Synod that the General Council approve the employment of Miss Margaret Kovats as a missionary worker in the "Eastern Classis" of that synod and authorize the subsidization of her work by the Commission on Evangelism, and a communication from the Mission House transmitting an action taken by the Board of Trustees upon the report of the special committee appointed by the General Council to study the Mission House development program.

The President then read his report. (Copy appended) The General Council VOTED to receive the report and refer it to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS

Dr. Wagner resumed the chairmanship of the meeting and called upon Dr. Owen M. Walton to say a few words to the General Council. Dr. Walton extended fraternal greetings to the General Council on behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Council of Churches.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Kerschner read his report. (Copy appended) The General Council VOTED to receive the report and refer it to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Keck stated that because of building and remodeling operations under way at Eden Publishing House he had been unable to prepare a detailed report for presentation at this meeting. He submitted a tabulation of the amounts paid by the synods on the apportionment and the World Service Fund. This showed that the amount paid on the apportionment in September 1955 totaled $252,222.36, exceeding the total for September 1954 by $8,165.46 and bringing the amount paid since the beginning of the present fiscal year to a total of $2,100,769.83. It also revealed that from February 1 until September 30, 1955, a total of $389,126.39 had been contributed for World Service. In addition to the contributions received from synods, a total of $27,265.86 in support of World Service was received from organizations.

The Treasurer stated that certain matters which he was submitting to the Committee on Finance and Budget would be brought to the attention of the General Council through the report of that committee.

REPORT OF THE COUNSELOR

Dr. Mueller reported briefly upon a number of routine matters with which he had been concerned as counselor of the Church. He then presented the following items:

Protestant Orphans' Home, Louisville, Ky. This institution wishes to become affiliated with the Evangelical and Reformed Church through the Commission on Benevolent Institutions. The General Council in February 1948 adopted as the standard of qualifications for a benevolent institution of our Church a formula which includes a provision that in the event of the dissolution of the institution or the discontinuance of its functions its property, real and personal, shall revert to the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This provision is incorporated in the by-laws of all benevolent institutions of our Church. The Protestant Orphans' Home, which has a substantial endowment fund, wishes to be exempted from this requirement. The counselor will continue negotiations with representatives of the home in the hope of securing their complete acceptance of our standard for a benevolent institution of the Church.

Transfer of title to property. Bethany Church at Ledyard, Iowa, was formed through the merger of Friedens Church, formerly a congregation of the Evangelical Synod of N. A., and Bethany Church, formerly a congregation of the Reformed Church in the U.S. The General Council in 1953 approved the transfer of the title to the property of the former Friedens Church to the present Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church. Neither the former Bethany Church nor the Reformed Church in the U. S. was incorporated, and in neither case does there exist a continuing legal entity. The by-laws of the Reformed Church in the U. S. provided that in the event of the discontinuance of a local church its property should revert to the denomination. Upon the basis of this provision the counselor prepared a deed for the property of the former Bethany Church and arranged for the transfer of the title to this property to the present Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Proposed federated church. Zion Church of Clayton, Mo., being a rural church in a community which is becoming urbanized, is unable by itself to meet the demands of this situation. The Congregational Christian Churches are preparing to organize a mission congregation at Clayton and have made the down payment on a site for the church building. It has been suggested, however, that when the new congregation has been organized it join with the congregation of Zion Church to form a federated church. Both Zion Church and the local Congregational Christian mission society are favorably disposed toward the proposal, and Zion Church has agreed that the articles of federation shall be in accord with the General Council's policy concerning federated churches.

In the discussion which followed the counselor's statement the General Council was advised that through the proposed federation there could be developed a strong congregation which would make a valuable contribution to the growth of Protestantism in the St. Louis area. In addition, the Council was reminded that the pending union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches rendered the establishment of a separate Congregational Christian Church at Clayton inadvisable. The Council VOTED to authorize the President to appoint one or more persons to cooperate with the counselor in the negotiations looking toward the federation of the two congregations.

TREASURER'S
MONTHLY
REPORTS

Treasurer Keck requested the General Council to reconsider the basis upon which his monthly reports are distributed to the congregations. At present the reports are sent to the pastor and the secretary of each congregation; if the president is a layman they are sent to him also. Dr. Keck recommended that they be sent to the church treasurer instead of to the secretary. The General Council VOTED that the present basis of distribution should be continued, but that, in addition, the reports should be sent to those treasurers for whom they were requested.

PROPOSED CAMPAIGN FOR CATAWBA COLLEGE

Dr. Althouse reported that Southern Synod had made plans for a campaign to raise $1,500,000 in capital funds for Catawba College. No appeal would be made to churches outside the boundaries of the synod, but there might be direct solicitation of corporations and individuals. The General Council felt that clearance for the campaign should be secured from the Commission on Higher Education, especially since the 1953 General Synod, in lieu of a major capital funds campaign for the benefit of our educational institutions, had included in the budget for this triennium a Supplementary Higher Education Fund to be allocated to the institutions on a percentage basis. After a discussion, action upon the proposed campaign was deferred until Thursday. On that day, through the adoption of item 16 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget, the matter was referred to the Commission on Higher Education.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMISSIONS OF THE CHURCH

Christian Social Action. Dr. Huber F. Klemme, executive secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action, submitted a request of the Commission for continuation of the emphasis on Christian Commitment and Christian Community. He also submitted a recommendation of the Commission that for the first year of the United Church of Christ there be chosen an emphasis which would challenge all of our members and unify our interests. By common consent both matters were referred to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion.

Church and Ministry. The executive secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry, Rev. Harold H. Wilke, called attention to the following items in the Commission's report to the General Council (copy appended):

Item 10, in which the Commission requested approval of the election of Revs. Paul E. Irion and Harold C. Baer as members of the Commission.

Item 13, in which the Commission, commenting upon the recommendations of the Liaison Committee authorized by the General Council to determine the respective responsibilities of the Commission on World Service, the Commission on Church and Ministry and the two mission boards in ministering to human need, expressed its judgment that the Commission on Church and Ministry had no responsibility for work in defense areas.

Item 19b, in which the Commission recommended that the matter of financial aid for European applicants for privilege of call be handled by the General Council on the basis of the need in each specific case.

The General Council referred these items to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

Stewardship. Dr. James W. Bright, executive secretary of the Commission on Stewardship, told of a movement sponsored by the National Council's Joint Department of Stewardship and Benevolence to foster among Church people a sense of stewardship in relation to wills and annuities, so that they would include the Church among their legatees. He stated that the Commission on Stewardship, having studied the matter of a policy for our Church in this area, requested permission to counsel with representatives of boards and agencies which were desirous of receiving funds through bequests and annuities. The General Council VOTED to refer the matter to the Cabinet on Correlation and Promotion and to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion.

Benevolent Institutions. Rev. A. H. Meyer, secretary of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions, expressed a hope that the General Council would be represented at the 1956 spring meeting of the Commission despite a conflict between the date for that meeting and the dates for the annual meeting of the General Council. He added that in the year 1957 and thereafter the Commission would hold its spring meeting at a time when a member of the General Council could be present. President Wagner expressed regret that because of the approaching meeting of the General Synod it would not be possible for a representative of the General Council to attend the 1956 spring meeting of the Commission.

World Service. Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich, executive secretary of the Commission on World Service, reported that the Commission had been actively engaged in flood relief in eastern Pennsylvania this fall. At the Synod Presidents' Conference next month he would present the techniques of the Commission on World Service for relief in the event of national disaster.

Dr. Helfferich distributed copies of "Bees for Bali," a report of his special mission to Asia and Africa, November 1954 to July 1955, and copies of "The Church of Loving-Kindness," a compilation of data concerning World Service which had been prepared for the use of the Commission's zonal representatives at the 1955 fall meetings of the synods.

PARTIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY

Dr. Herbster, chairman of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary, presented items 1-20 of the committee's report. They were acted upon item by item. Item 17 was amended and was adopted as amended. The other items were adopted without amendment. The adoption of item 2 and item 13 was by a rising vote.

As adopted by the General Council this partial report of the committee is as follows:

1. The General Council extends its heartiest congratulations to Dr. James E. Wagner on the honor that was accorded him, and through him to the whole Evangelical and Reformed Church, by the Budapest Reformed Theological Academy.

The General Council is happy to note the increased awareness to be found in many quarters, of the ministry which our denomination is making throughout the world.

2. Since the last meeting of the General Council one of the Presidents Emeriti of the Church, Dr. George W. Richards, has been called to "the nearer presence of the Lord."

To list here all of the work done and the honors received by this great churchman would be to say too little. Suffice it here to note that one of the tasks in which he took greatest joy was the part he played in the union of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in the United States, and in the whole ecumenical movement.

He was a brother honored and respected throughout the whole Christian world. His long life was a blessing for us all. In his homegoing we rejoice and take courage in the task yet remaining.

The General Council pauses to remember him and to give thanks unto God for his life and labors.

The Secretary of the Church is instructed to convey this resolution to the family.

3. The General Council rejoices in the net gain in communicant membership registered in 1954, bringing our total confirmed membership to 774,277, and looks forward with the President to reaching the 800,000 mark by 1956.

4. The General Council approves in principle the quota for our Church of $9,025 toward the headquarters property and facilities for the World Council of Churches at Geneva, but leaves to the Committee on Finance and Budget the final decision upon the matter.

5. The General Council believes that it would be of mutual benefit if at least one faculty member from one of our seminaries would serve on one of the World Council Study Committees. The cost of this could be borne from the item of "Ecumenical Travel Fund" which the General Council approved in principle at its last meeting. Final decision in this financial item should be recommended by the Committee on Finance and Budget.

6. (a) The General Council amends the action taken at its last meeting and substitutes the words "Request for" for "Report of" in the title of the proposed form, which then would read "Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship."

(b) The General Council approves the form "Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship" as submitted by President Wagner.

7. (a) The General Council authorizes the President, in consultation with the executive secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action, to name our delegation to the Third National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life, to be held in Pittsburgh, April 12-15, 1956.

(b) The General Council refers the item of expense to the Committee on Finance and Budget.

8. The General Council approves the tentative plans that President Wagner has made to visit the mission fields of our Church: late February and March 1956, Honduras and Ecuador; November-December 1956, Japan, Hong Kong and India; March 1957, Iraq and Togoland.

9. The General Council approves in principle inviting native representatives of our missions to the meeting of our General Synod in 1956. Final decision on the matter, however, is left to finding by the Committee on Finance and Budget as to how the cost can be underwritten.

10. The General Council declares that for membership on the Committee on Nominations for the 1956 General Synod odd-numbered synods as they are listed alphabetically in the Year Book shall choose ministerial members of the Committee and even-numbered synods shall choose lay members of the Committee. This schedule shall be reversed for the next General Synod following, and from then on, according to this pattern, alternate for each succeeding General Synod.

11. (a) The General Council notes with regret the resignation of Dr. William L. Rest as a member of the General Council. This resignation is necessitated because Dr. Rest was elected full-time

president of North Illinois Synod. The General Council authorizes the Secretary of the Church to send a letter to Dr. Rest expressing the gratitude of the Council for his valued service and wishing him God's blessing in his new responsibility.

(b) The General Council at this session shall fill this vacancy. The President has proposed the name of Dr. Albert G. Gonser, and other nominations may be made from the floor.

12. (a) The General Council notes with regret the resignation of Dr. Alfred N. Sayres as a member of the Committee on Liturgics, and instructs the Secretary of the Church to send to Dr. Sayres a letter of appreciation for his service on the committee.

(b) The General Council at this session shall fill this vacancy. The President has proposed the names of Dr. D. Bard Thompson and Dr. R. Pierce Beaver, and other nominations may be made from the floor.

13. The General Council notes with appreciation the completion of ten years of service of Dr. Huber F. Klemme and Dr. Fred C. Schweinfurth as executive secretaries, respectively, of the Commission on Christian Social Action and the Commission on Evangelism. The members of the General Council shall continue to pray for these men and their work.

14. The General Council believes that there would be value in approving official colors and a coat of arms or emblem for the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and refers this matter to the Committee on Liturgics in consultation with the Historical Committee.

15. (a) The General Council extends an invitation to the members of the Executive Committee of the Congregational Christian Churches to attend the sessions of the General Synod on September 5-7, 1956.

(b) The General Council refers to President Wagner the matter of working out with our Congregational Christian brethren a suitable time for us to visit the Congregational Christian General Council.

16. The General Council approves in principle the setting up of the seven regional joint conferences "to train carefully selected church leaders to go back to their respective conferences, conventions and synods with information, techniques and programs for acquainting people of the churches with the two communions...not to debate the merger pro or con, but to present the history, organization and present program of both groups." However, the General Council awaits final decision in the matter until a recommendation shall be made by the Committee on Finance and Budget.

17. (a) The General Council refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the matter of an appropriation of $19,000 to be drawn upon for our share for the work of the Congregational Christian Office of Communications as the working arm of the Joint Committee on Public Relations.

(b) The General Council approves the item of $12,530 to provide an additional staff member for the Office of Communications, this amount to be taken from the established fund for this purpose.

18. The General Council continues to be eager to go forward with the proposed union with the Congregational Christian Churches. The provision for and the appointment of the Joint Committee to Study Basic Christian Doctrines should meet any concern of our people in this area. This joint theological committee and the Joint Committee of Lawyers, working separately or together, will, we believe, find answers that will meet any concerns that our people may have in the area of polity. We call upon our people to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we take these next steps forward.

19. The General Council is encouraged by the large number of congregations which now are engaged in the emphasis on Christian Commitment and Christian Community. The General Council calls the attention of the congregations to the fact that the best preparation for the coming union is a re-commitment on the part of congregations and people to the work that still remains to be done.

20. The General Council submits to the Administrative Committee the applications for privilege of call and the applications for renewal of privilege of call.

Elections. The elections specified in items 11b and 12b of the foregoing report were scheduled for Tuesday evening.

REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The General Council was advised that the Commission on Higher Education had elected Rev. Lonnie A. Carpenter to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Harvey A. Fesperman as a member of the Commission and had nominated Messrs. Charles Naylor, Melvin Janssen and Antone Hotle as candidates for election to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Stanley Wilke as a member of the Commission. The Commission requested the General Council to approve the election of Mr. Carpenter and to elect one of the three laymen nominated to replace Mr. Wilke. By common consent the General Council referred this request to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REACTIVATION OF CANCELLED OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHAFF BUILDING (Part 1)

The report of the Joint Committee on the Reactivation of Cancelled Obligations of the Schaff Building was presented by the chairman, Dr. Haas. (Copy appended) After considerable discussion the General Council VOTED to adopt in place of the report the following resolution:

"It shall be the policy of the General Council to direct at the end of each fiscal year that as much as is possible, with due consideration to the necessary working capital of the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation, be appropriated for distribution to those persons or agencies which gave trust funds to the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation in the times of distress, with the aim of ultimately liquidating the entire principal in the period of ten years; this action to be subject to the concurrence of the Board of Business Management."

The General Council's members of the Joint Committee on the Reactivation of Cancelled Obligations of the Schaff Building were dismissed with gratitude for the service they had rendered in this connection.

REPORT OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE

The report of the Study Committee was read by the chairman, Dr. Herbster. The General Council VOTED to adopt the report, which is as follows:

I. The Study Committee, in following its decision that the present emphasis shall be on a self-study by the boards and agencies of the Church, has continued to compile a list of suggested questions for discussion. These questions have been divided into three areas:

1. General questions to be answered by all boards and agencies.
2. Questions suggested by a particular agency for answer by that agency itself.
3. Questions suggested by an agency for answer by another agency and those specific questions added by the Committee.

The Committee is now ready to distribute these questions for use by the boards and agencies, and asks for cooperation in their discussion. The Committee also asks that after their use a report be submitted as to how these questions were used and, if the agency is willing, a compilation of the answers agreed upon. No suggested lists have been received from some boards and agencies. If the Committee receives any additional questions that would be helpful, they will be submitted on a supplementary list.

II. In discussion the Committee came to the decision to recommend to the General Council that a permanent advisory committee be appointed (similar to the Theological Committee) which would have a two-fold task:

1. By research and study to find answers for specific problems which might be referred to it by boards and agencies or the General Council.
2. To be constantly on the alert to make suggestions on its own as to ways our Church could minister more effectively and more efficiently to the total needs of our people and of the world.

The decision to make this recommendation grew out of the fact that the Committee had faced a couple of problems and, while finding no solution, felt that there ought to be some group to which problems like these could be referred for intensive study. One such problem discussed was how, inasmuch as many of our consistorymen are being displaced by the rotating system of consistory membership, a congregation and/or the denomination could continue to make use of such people who have so much experience and consecration. Therefore, the Study Committee offers this recommendation to the General Council:

> That the General Council authorize the appointment of a Permanent Advisory Committee (not all members of which shall be members of the General Council) whose task it will be to study ways and means of making the life and the ministry of the Evangelical and Reformed Church more effective. This Committee shall meet as often as necessary and shall report regularly to the General Council.

ELECTIONS

Member of the General Council. The General Council VOTED that Dr. Albert G. Gonser be elected by acclamation to fill the unexpired term of Dr. William L. Rest as a member of the Council.

Member of the Committee on Liturgics. The Council VOTED that Dr. D. Bard Thompson be elected by acclamation to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Alfred N. Sayres as a member of the Committee on Liturgics.

PHOEBE HOME, ALLENTOWN, PA.

The General Council was advised that the presidents of five of the eight synods which support the Phoebe Home had taken the initiative in securing for the Home a group of buildings formerly used as a tuberculosis sanatarium. The Board of the Phoebe Home was not consulted in this matter. Since the buildings were in bad condition there were acquired at a nominal price, but their conversion into a home for the aged would require a considerable expenditure of funds. The General Council was of the opinion that there should be closer supervision of our benevolent institutions by the Commission on Benevolent Institutions and that synod presidents should be reminded that the evaluation of projects such as the one just reported was a function of the Commission.

The business of the day having been concluded, the General Council rose for a moment of silence, following which Dr. Wagner offered prayer.

Wednesday, October 12

On Wednesday morning the members and advisory members of the General Council participated in a worship service led by Dr. Haas.

For the remainder of the day the General Council met as committees.

In the evening the Council and its advisory members fellowshipped with the Evangelical and Reformed Church people of the Pittsburgh area at a social gathering in St. Paul's Church, North Side, Pittsburgh.

Thursday, October 13

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY (Concluded)

The concluding items of the report of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary were presented by Dr. Herbster and were adopted item by item. They are as follows:

21. The General Council receives with appreciation the report of the Secretary of the Church and notes the records contained therein.

22. The General Council is happy to learn that the Mission House Board of Trustees is now prepared to consult with the special committee recommended in section 5 of the findings of the General Council's Special Committee on Mission House College and Seminary. (Minutes of General Council, September 21-23, 1954: page 9 and appended report, page 4) The General Council authorizes the appointment of this committee.

23. The General Council is in receipt of the request of Magyar Synod for approval of the employment of Miss Margaret Kovats as a missionary worker in the "Eastern Classis" of Magyar Synod and the synod's application for aid for her from the Commission on Evangelism. The General Council believes that this request needs rethinking at the following points:

(a) Such a request, if it is to be made, should be made directly to the Commission on Evangelism and not through the General Council.

(b) Normally, a board, commission or auxiliary organization itself determines whether or not work needs to be inaugurated in any area, and if this work is found necessary, then the board, commission or auxiliary organization searches out the person to carry out this ministry.

(c) If a synod is to employ a worker in any area of Christian emphasis, the synod itself ought to be prepared to pay the expenses and salary of the worker.

(d) Such employment should not be made without consultation with the board, commission or auxiliary organization which supervises the total work in this area, and without arranging for proper guidance to the field worker by that board, commission or auxiliary organization.

24. The General Council approves the election of the Rev. Paul E. Irion to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. Harold H. Wilke on the Commission on Church and Ministry.

25. The General Council approves the election of the Rev. Harold C. Baer to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Truman A. Crist on the Commission on Church and Ministry.

26. The General Council approves the interpretation of the Commission on Church and Ministry that it is not a responsibility of that Commission to do work in defense areas.

27. The General Council accepts the report of the Commission on Church and Ministry concerning applications of foreign pastors for privilege of call, that is, that the Commission feels "(a) in re licensure, the By-Laws of the Church provide for this. (b) With respect to financial assistance, the Commission 'recommends to General Council that should applications be made for financial assistance, such individual cases shall be considered as they arise by General Council, and that no general limitations on such aid should be established.'" But the General Council still has no answer to the fact that there is no examining Committee on Church and Ministry available to examine these people before the application for privilege of call comes to the General Council. The Commission on Church and Ministry should study this problem further and give to the General Council its best judgment on this problem.

28. The General Council approves the election of the Rev. Lonnie A. Carpenter to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Harvey A. Fesperman on the Commission on Higher Education. With respect to the nomination of Mr. Charles Naylor, Mr. Melvin Janssen and Mr. Antone Hotle, the General Council reminds the Commission that the Commission should do the electing and request the General Council to approve the election. In the interest of economy of time, however, the General Council is willing to approve the one of these three candidates whom the Commission shall elect.

INCONSISTENCY IN THE BY-LAWS OF THE CHURCH

Noting that By-Law 109b provides that "members of the General Council shall not be eligible as members of Boards, Commissions or Boards of Auxiliary Organizations" of the Church, but that By-Law 135 directs that the Committee on Correlation and Promotion shall choose one of its members to represent it on the Commission on Stewardship, the General Council referred this problem to the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

FURTHER REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Secretary Kerschner presented as an additional report of the Administrative Committee the minutes of a meeting which the committee had held on Tuesday, October 11.

Rev. Chester L. Marcus. The General Council received as information the statement that the Committee on Church and Ministry of Northeast Ohio Synod had approved the application of Rev. Chester L. Marcus for reception into the ministry of our Church.

The Council then took action upon each of the remaining items of the report, as follows:

Form for the call to a full-time synod president. VOTED to approve the action of the Administrative Committee authorizing the President and the Administrative Assistant to draft a form for the call to a full-time synod president, paralleling as far as possible the call to a pastor.

First Church, Portland, Oreg. VOTED to approve the directive of the Administrative Committee that the Synodical Council of Pacific Northwest Synod, in consultation with the president of the West Coast Area, give immediate attention to the situation at First Church, Portland, Oreg., and report to the Administrative Committee.

Privilege of call:

VOTED to grant privilege of call to Rev. John Wilson Harner, conditional upon favorable action by the Committee on Church and Ministry of Philadelphia Synod.

VOTED to grant privilege of call to Rev. Laszlo Aaron Borsay, who is now a citizen of Canada, provided that he certify his willingness to apply for United States citizenship.

VOTED to grant privilege of call to Rev. Samuel McCrea Forster.

VOTED that the application of Rev. Anthony Henry Sarrio cannot be considered because of the General Council's ruling that privilege of call may not be granted to applicants over 50 years of age.

VOTED not to grant the request of Rev. Michael Hogye for renewal of privilege of call, inasmuch as the General Council at its meeting last February ruled that under normal circumstances privilege of call may be renewed only once, and in this case it has been renewed annually since 1949 with the exception of one year in which it was allowed to lapse.

Place and date of next meeting of the committee. VOTED to approve the decision of the Administrative Committee to hold its next meeting at Cleveland, Ohio, on December 8, following the joint meeting of this General Council and the Congregational Christian Executive Committee.

LICENSURE OF THEODOR MAUCH

Dr. Wagner reported that Theodor Mauch, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biblical History, Literature and Interpretation at Wellesley College, had completed his ministerial training some years ago, but had not been licensed and ordained. He now wishes to become a minister of our Church. He is the son of an Evangelical and Reformed pastor and was for a time under the care of Michigan-Indiana Synod as a student for the ministry, but, partly as a result of his father's removal from that synod to Iowa Synod and then to South Illinois Synod, he lost all effective connection with any synod. Since he now resides within the boundaries of New York Synod he applied to that synod for licensure. The synodical Committee on Church and Ministry examined him and approved his licensure conditional upon the approval of the General Council, which, under the provisions of By-Law 25c, was necessary in this instance.

The General Council VOTED to approve the licensure of Theodor Mauch, with the understanding that in accordance with the provisions of By-Law 29 he would not be ordained until one year following the date of his licensure.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET

The report of the Committee on Finance and Budget was presented by the chairman, Dr. Mueller. The first three items were received as information. Items 4, 8d, 14, 15 and 16 were amended and were adopted as amended. All other items of the report were adopted without change.

The report as adopted is as follows:

1. The General Council acknowledges receipt of the audited reports of all boards, commissions and agencies for the year 1954. The reports have been duly reviewed by the Committee on Finance and Budget and all questions pertaining thereto clarified by staff members.

2. Treasurer Keck reported that he had exchanged United States Government Bonds of 1-7/8% due 1959 for bonds of the same amount bearing interest at 2-1/2% and maturing in 1967 and 1972.

3. Treasurer Keck reported the receipt of $332.75 from Gene Hermeier as full payment of a student loan together with interest.

4. The chairman reported that in line with the resolution of the General Council at its last meeting a form of Certificate of Deposit was prepared for use by the Board of Investments. A copy of this form was sent to said Board, but no reply has been received, nor do we know if same is in use. The Board of Investments is directed to use the form of Certificate of Deposit to be sent, duly executed, to all those who now have amounts on deposit with the Board of Investments, as well as those who will do so in the future.

5. The General Council disapproves the payment of bonuses to employees or staff members as reported in some of the audits. Such practice of granting bonuses undermines the provisions made for an annual review of the salaries of executive secretaries and staff members.

6. Treasurer Keck reported the payment of the regular subsidies and additional subsidies to the following synods having full-time presidents. The General Council approves the payment of the additional subsidies as hereinafter indicated:

Synod	Effective Date	Additional Subsidy
Central Pennsylvania	1/1/55	---
East Pennsylvania	1/1/55	---
Lehigh	1/1/55	---
Mercersburg	1/1/55	---
Philadelphia	1/1/55	---
Pittsburgh	1/1/55	---
Texas	1/1/55	775.00
West Coast Area	1/1/55	6618.00
Iowa	8/1/55	---
Kansas City	9/1/55	1736.50
Lancaster	1/1/56	---
Missouri Valley	1/1/56	---
Northern	9/1/55	697.50
Potomac	10/1/55	---
Reading	8/1/55	---
Southern	7/1/55	1047.50
South Indiana	8/1/55	---
Southwest Ohio	7/1/55	---
West New York	7/1/55	---

7. The General Council authorizes the Treasurer to make the following payments:

*$7,500 to the National Council of Churches (Broadcasting and Film Commission
**$2,820 to the National Council of Churches (National Conference on Social Welfare)
$12,500 to the National Council of Churches (General Fund)

8. The following problems were suggested by Treasurer Keck with reference to certain student notes:

a. A student received a loan and signed notes therefor, but before the payment of same was killed in an accident. Is the family of the student responsible for the payment of these notes?

The General Council directs Treasurer Keck to cancel said notes.

b. In the event a student has completed his studies and dies prior to the completion of ten years of service in the ministry, is the family of such student or pastor, or his estate, responsible for the notes signed by the deceased?

The General Council states that under these circumstances, although the estate of the deceased may be legally liable, said notes should be cancelled.

c. A student has received loans and is later inducted into military service. Are such loans due and payable immediately upon such induction regardless of whether or not he expects to continue his studies for the ministry after his discharge from military service?

The General Council directs that unless the student announces his permanent withdrawal from further studies for the ministry a moratorium should be granted in the payment of the notes until his completion of military service. If upon his completion of military service the student announces that he will not continue his studies for the ministry the note should be collected. If, however, he resumes his studies upon his return from military service the note should be handled in the usual way.

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* This includes the $5,000 previously authorized by the Administrative Committee. (See page 2)

** Previously authorized by the Administrative Committee. (P. 2)

d. In following the first resolution adopted by the General Council in February of 1955 with reference to the Treasurer's duty regarding the collection of delinquent notes, has the Treasurer a free hand in arranging for repayment, with subsequent report to the Committee on Finance and Budget?

The General Council authorizes the Treasurer to arrange for such settlements of repayment of delinquent notes and at his discretion to confer with the chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget if he deems it necessary.

9. The General Council approves the document evidencing the loan agreement made with Eden Publishing House for $200,000 in accordance with the authorization at the February 1955 meeting of the General Council.

10. The General Council directs that the payment of the quota of our Church in the sum of $9,025 for the acquisition of headquarters property, etc., of the World Council of Churches at Geneva be deferred until the February 1956 meeting of the General Council.

11. The General Council directs that the cost of appointing a faculty member from one of our seminaries to serve on the World Council Study Committees be arranged for at the February 1956 meeting of the General Council.

12. The General Council directs that the item of expense for our delegation to the Third National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life to be held in Pittsburgh, April 12-15, 1956, be deferred until the February 1956 meeting of the General Council.

13. The General Council allocates the sum of $5,000 for the expenses of representatives of our missions in India, Japan and Africa to the 1956 General Synod; that the $5,000 needed for these expenses be transferred from the current surplus account to the Ecumenical Travel Fund account and drawn therefrom.

14. The General Council directs that the sums of $19,000 and $12,530 as the share of our Church in the work of the Joint Committee on Public Relations be paid, as needed, from the Union Planning Account.

15. The General Council, having approved the plan set up by the Churchmen's Brotherhood and the Laymen's Fellowship for holding regional joint conferences, therefore allocates the sum of $3,906.15, the balance in the current surplus account, for our share of the expenses for this program. This sum should be transferred to the Union Planning Account and paid therefrom as needed.

16. Inasmuch as the request for permission to conduct a campaign for funds for the benefit of Catawba College has not been sought by Southern Synod, which inaugurated the proposal, and has not had the approval of the Commission on Higher Education, the General Council is unable to take any action thereon at this session, and refers the matter to the Commission on Higher Education for its attention.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRELATION AND PROMOTION

Dr. Mackey read the report of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion. Items 7 and 10 were received as information. Items 2 and 5 were amended and were adopted as amended. The other items were adopted without change.

The report as adopted is as follows:

1. The General Council commends the members of the staff of the Department of United Promotion upon the excellent work which they have done since our last meeting.

2. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion requests the General Council to authorize the use of the United Promotion TV Fund ($10,000 annually), which will amount to $30,000 by the end of 1956, for the production and distribution of a first thirteen films, in color, on Old Testament subjects which would be presented by Dr. Allen G. Wehrli; the $10,000 for the year 1956 to be made available during the production months of January, February and March, 1956, and the $30,000 total to be augmented by approximately $9,000 of anticipated voluntary gifts to the Radio and Television Fund of the Evangelical and Reformed Church; all of this provided that adequate identification of the Evangelical and Reformed Church as the sponsoring agency is included.

3. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends to the General Council that at its meeting in February 1956 consideration be given to the matter of establishing a Committee on Radio and TV Broadcasting in our Church; this matter to be developed fully and presented to the General Council by the Committee on Correlation and Promotion at the February meeting.

4. The General Council approves the continuation of the Every Member Canvass/Kingdom Roll Call as a joint project with the Congregational Christian Churches for another year.

5. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion looks with favor upon the employment of an additional staff member of the Department of United Promotion who shall be responsible for special fund raising, and hopes that the Committee and the Department will be prepared to recommend possible names for this position at the next meeting of the General Council.

6. In view of new light that has been shed upon the matter of the basis for laying the apportionment, the Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends to the General Council that further action upon the proposed new basis which was submitted to the synods last spring be deferred pending a report by this committee at the next meeting of the General Council.

7. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion reports as information that a subcommittee composed of Dr. Stanger, Dr. Lentz

and Dr. Limbert has been appointed to study the salary schedule of the whole Church, and that Mr. Harry Toulmin, Director of Organization and Management for the National Council of Churches, and/or some other expert in this field will be requested to assist the subcommittee. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion will report on this matter at the next meeting of the General Council.

8. The General Council approves a request of the Commission on Christian Social Action that Christian Commitment and Christian Community be continued as a denominational emphasis throughout the promotional year beginning in September 1956.

9. The General Council instructs the Commission on Stewardship, after consultation with the Department of United Promotion, to prepare a policy in regard to wills and annuities and submit it to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion at the annual meeting in February 1956.

10. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion submits herewith a revised statement outlining an ADVANCE for the triennium 1957-59. This statement was prepared by the Cabinet on Correlation and Promotion and represents the joint planning of the Department of United Promotion and the executives of the boards and agencies of the Church. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that the General Council authorize the continuation of such plans and proposals together with the submission of possible budgetary requirements, so that action may be taken, if final approval is given, at the next meeting of the General Council, recommending such an ADVANCE to the General Synod of 1956.

11. The General Council directs the Committee on Correlation and Promotion to propose at the February meeting of the Council a policy concerning the nomination and/or appointment of women of the Church for service on all judicatories, agencies and delegations of the Church.

Program of ADVANCE. In connection with item 10 of the foregoing report Dr. Mackey presented the statement concerning a program of ADVANCE to which reference is made in that item. (Copy appended) He reported that the statement would be edited by a special committee of the Cabinet on Correlation and Promotion and would be resubmitted to the General Council in February. By common consent the General Council adopted the following resolution:

"The General Council receives with great appreciation and gladness this tentative statement of the proposed program of ADVANCE for the next triennium and looks forward with great anticipation to the final report of the Cabinet and the Committee on Correlation and Promotion on this matter."

REQUEST
OF THE
COMMISSION
ON
STEWARDSHIP

The special committee which had been appointed on Tuesday to consider the request of the Commission on Stewardship for permission to employ a full-time executive secretary recommended that action on this matter be deferred until after the consummation of the union of our Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. The General Council VOTED to adopt the recommendation.

REACTIVATION OF CANCELLED OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHAFF BUILDING (Part 2)

The matter of reactivating cancelled obligations of the Schaff Building was reopened. The resolution adopted on Tuesday, having in the meantime been edited, was read to the General Council in its revised form. A discussion of the revised resolution resulted in its amendment. The General Council then VOTED to rescind its action adopting the resolution as originally presented and to adopt as a substitute the resolution as edited and amended, namely:

"The General Council directs that at the end of each fiscal year as much as possible, with due consideration to the necessary working capital of the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation, be appropriated for distribution to those agencies which gave trust funds to the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation in times of distress, ultimately returning the entire principal unless such action be in conflict with specific, irrevocable provisions of instruments creating the trusts. We construe this action as providing that full settlement of items 4 and 5 as listed in the Joint Committee's report (copy appended) shall be given priority, and then the pro rata settlement shall be applied to other items in the account. For the purpose of this settlement the interest payable to the Board of Christian Education and Publication, as listed in item 6 of the report of the Joint Committee, shall be construed as one of the capital debts.

"This action is subject to concurrence by the Board of Business Management."

It was the consensus of opinion that the loans payable to the Heidelberg Press and the amount due the Heidelberg Press for interest, as listed in item 6 of the Joint Committee's report, need not be taken into consideration. On the basis of this understanding and of the foregoing action of the General Council the total sum involved is $150,760.44.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

Dr. Koch, chairman of the Committee on Publication, read the committee's report. The General Council VOTED to adopt the seven recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Study of a Publication Policy for the Church. It then VOTED to adopt the two recommendations of the Committee on Publication.

The report as adopted is as follows:

Part I

The chairman of the Committee on Publication acted as convener and chairman of a special committee charged with carrying out the directive of the 1953 General Synod contained in Recommendation 13 of the report of the Committee on the Report of the Study Committee, as follows:

> "The General Synod directs its newly created Committee on Publication, the Board of Christian Education and Publication, and the Board of Business Management to study the problems involved in the field of publication for the Church, and instructs them to present to the 1956 General Synod their joint suggestions for a basic policy on publication of the Evangelical and Reformed Church."

The Committee on Publication and representatives of the Board of Christian Education and Publication and the Board of Business Management held a number of meetings in which the problems involved were thoroughly discussed, and we are happy to report that agreement was reached on basic policies governing publication. Subject to final approval by the boards involved, the following recommendations will be submitted to the 1956 General Synod for action:

1. (a) That the Christian Education Press be designated as the publishing agency of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

(b) That the Chairman of the Committee on Publication of the General Council, the Director of Publications of the Board of Christian Education and Publication, and the President of the Board of Business Management be empowered to act as the Advisory Council to the Christian Education Press, and shall meet at least once annually. The Chairman of the Committee on Publication shall be designated as Chairman of the Advisory Council.

The Chairman of the Advisory Council (the Chairman of the Committee on Publication) shall report to the General Council through the Committee on Publication.

2. That the Eden Publishing House be designated as the printing agency of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

3. That the Eden Publishing House and the Heidelberg Press, or their successors, be designated as the distributing agencies for the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

4. That boards, commissions and auxiliary organizations be free to publish, print and distribute such material as they deem essential to their own work.

5. That the Christian Education Press shall render such editorial assistance as may be requested by the boards, commissions and auxiliary organizations of the Church.

6. That publications such as Church papers, liturgies, Church hymnals and the Year Book shall be published as the General Synod may direct.

7. That the Board of Business Management shall establish at Eden Publishing House a central consultation department for the printing requirements of the Church. Administrative offices, boards, commissions and auxiliary organizations of the Evangelical and Reformed Church shall be requested to consult the department in order to coordinate all printing of the Church.

Part II

Recommendations of the Committee on Publication:

1. Resolved that whenever orders of service are printed (e.g., in wedding, baptismal and confirmation booklets) the official text as approved by the General Synod be used.

2. Resolved that Eden Publishing House be requested to proceed with the publication of a wedding booklet which shall contain the first order for a wedding service as found in the Book of Worship.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Dr. Herbster invited the General Council to hold its 1957 annual meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dr. Koch, on behalf of his Church Council, invited the General Council to hold its 1957 fall meeting at St. Paul, Minn. The General Council VOTED to accept both invitations.

It then approved the following schedule for its meetings in 1956 and 1957:

Kansas City, Mo.--February 6-9, 1956
Cleveland, Ohio--October 16-17, 1956
Cincinnati, Ohio--February 11-14, 1957
St. Paul, Minn.--September 16-19, 1957

FURTHER REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

Review of the work of the boards and agencies of the Church. Dr. Herbster submitted a recommendation of the Committee on Procedures that a week or so in advance of each meeting of the General Council the executives of the boards and agencies of the Church send to the members of the Council brief reports (approximately one page) upon the work of their respective boards or agencies since the last meeting of the Council, and that in the agenda for the General Council meeting provision be made for a discussion of the reports in a question-and-answer period. By common consent the General Council agreed to follow this procedure, as an experiment, at its next meeting, and directed that the reports be channeled through the Director of Correlation in time for the members of the Council to receive them a week in advance of the meeting.

DEDICATED DOLLARS PROGRAM

Dr. Sheeder spoke of the Dedicated Dollars program of the Youth Fellowship. The program was adopted by the National Council of the Youth Fellowship at its meeting in 1954 and was put into effect on February 1, 1955. Its purpose is to educate the young people, who heretofore have supported special projects recommended by the National Council of the Youth Fellowship, channeling their contributions through the Philadelphia office of the Department of Youth Work, to give to the total work of the denomination, channeling their contributions through the treasurers of the local churches, to be applied on the apportionment or World Service quotas of those churches. The National Youth Council recommends, but does not require, that Dedicated Dollars gifts be over and above the normal contributions of the local church. They are not to be regarded as designated gifts.

Dedicated Dollars gifts are the "second mile" giving of young people, supplementing the contributions which they make to their local church budgets through the regular use of weekly envelopes.

The money is secured through special offerings, earnings, gifts and contributions. Selling of any kind is discouraged.

There are four money-giving opportunities in the course of the year. Related to them are quarterly "study emphases" upon specific activities of the Boards of National Missions, International Missions and Christian Education and Publication, and the Commission on World Service.

The program provides a different money-giving suggestion for each quarter. While this is being put into effect, the special emphasis for that quarter is studied.

REPORTS PRESENTED AT SYNOD MEETINGS

The General Council was informed that at the meetings of some of our synods last spring the synod president, having received the minutes of the annual meeting of the General Council, included in his report to the synod matters upon which report should have been made by the denominational representative. The Council felt that synod presidents should be apprised of the distinction between their responsibilities and those of the denominational representatives in this respect.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BUDGETARY REQUESTS

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Budget Dr. Mueller informed the representatives of the boards and agencies of the Church that all financial reports and all budgetary requests for the coming fiscal year must be in the hands of the Treasurer by January 15, 1956.

Following a brief address to the General Council President Wagner brought the meeting to a close by offering prayer.

The General Council adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

James E. Wagner, Chairman W. Sherman Kerschner, Secretary

APPENDIX

Report of the President

- Appendix: Biographical Notes on Applicants for Privilege of Call or for Renewal of Privilege of Call
- Elections and Appointments Approved by the Administrative Committee
- President's Schedule, February 1, 1955 - September 30, 1955
- Agenda for the Annual Conference of Synod Presidents, November 2-3, 1955
- Tentative Proposed Program for the 1956 General Synod Meeting

Report of the Secretary

Report of the Commission on Church and Ministry

Report of the Joint Committee of the General Council and the Board of Business Management on the Reactivation of Cancelled Obligations of the Schaff Building

Program of Advance - 1957 - 1958 - 1959

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

October 11, 1955

Three weeks ago today, on September 20, I was preparing to leave Budapest for home after a 6-day visit with our brethren in Hungary which climaxed a 10-week stay in Europe. Far more than I might have anticipated when General Council took the action in February, I am deeply indebted to the Church for the opportunity thus afforded me.

Purposes served by this visit can be summarized in three categories. First, we were in this way represented at annual meetings of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches, and of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. Second, in my being a part of the delegation of non-Hungarian churchmen to visit Hungary not only did we share in the kind of a breaching of the Iron Curtain which the Evanston Assembly voted to encourage and which has been going on in a number of ways, but also it was possible to express in a personal way the interest in the Reformed Churches of Hungary which is especially deep among our seventy or more Hungarian congregations and which is in keeping with our historic ties with the Reformation in Hungary. The 18-day interlude which made possible a tour of Germany was devoted to two aims:- to get as full a picture as possible of the refugee situation and relief work as it is being carried on in Germany, and to come to understand more thoroughly the general situation and problems of the evangelical Churches of Germany. I have already reported in The Messenger on the Alliance and World Council meetings in Switzerland and my appraisal of the receiving end of World Service as I saw it in Germany, and a fourth article on the situation of the church in Hungary should be appearing there shortly. Further, The Christian Century has accepted an article describing what I have called the three struggles of the Church in Germany: (1) the struggle of the Church in East Germany under a Communist regime; (2) the struggle against a resurgence of historic confessionalism which threatens to vitiate the substantial union of German Protestantism which was achieved during Hitler's time in the Evangelical Church in Germany; and (3) the struggle of the Church to recapture if it ever possessed,- perhaps just "capture" would be the more accurate word,- the confidence and devotion of the masses who have looked toward the Church only on four occasions in their lives,- at Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and Death.

This is not an appropriate occasion to elaborate on my observations in Europe. Suffice it to say that I came home with pronounced reactions along several lines. First, we should remember in prayer and brotherly affection our fellow-Christians in East Germany and Hungary, and other areas behind the various "curtains" Iron or Bamboo, for they are no doubt carrying such crosses as we have not yet been called upon to bear. Second, we can be greatly confident of the wisdom and care which is being exercised by persons and agencies at the distributing end of World Service to which our people continue to give with sustained generosity. Third, the very trials through which the Church is going in Communist-governed lands have operated to bestow a fresh sense of authenticity upon the promise of our Lord concerning His Church that "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it"; for what I saw in Hungary, of crowded churches, of the proportions of young as well as old in the congregations, of young parents continuing to bring their children for baptism, of the evident gladness with which congregations joined in the songs of Zion and listened tirelessly and with expectancy to the reading and preaching of the word, of the numbers of young men offering themselves for the Christian ministry,- all such phenomena bring thrilling reassurance that no earthly power which denies or ignores or oppresses the Christian faith will ever succeed in vanquishing that faith but, rather, will be outlived and eventually conquered by that faith.

Encouragement at Home

We have many things to be encouraged about at home. First of all I mention, what is already known to you but in order to get it in the record here, that our communicant membership as of December 31, 1954 totalled 774,277. This reflects next to the largest net gain in membership registered since the statistics of the united church have been tabulated together. I am sure that immediate credit for this achievement must go chiefly to our Commission on Evangelism and our Board of National Missions and their workers. It leads me to feel that it is not unrealistic to hope that we will reach the 800,000 mark within the next two years.

Equally encouraging is the way our people continue to respond to the Kingdom Service Apportionment which is 25.8% higher than in the previous triennium. As of September 30 our receipts for Kingdom Service were $98,181.86,- 2.62%,ahead of the corresponding date a year ago. For World Service we were ahead $17,023.59,- 3.4%. Our people are growing in their stewardship and here again we are indebted to the leadership of our Department of United Promotion, the Commission on Stewardship and the Commission on World Service, as well as the support of the Churchmen's Brotherhood and Women's Guild.

We can likewise be encouraged by the accessions to full-time service in the Church. Including two young men who finished their work in February, the others in May or June, 95 young men were graduated this year from theological seminaries. Eighty-five percent of them studied in our own three seminaries. Eighty-nine of the 95 have already been ordained; one of them is continuing his studies with the intention of majoring in church architecture and devoting his life to service of the Church in this field; and of the others only one has not been placed in a pastorate or assistantship somewhere. The processes of licensure and ordination have not been completed as yet with regard to the other six. As I pointed out in a recent column in The Messenger we have now reached the point where we are graduating almost twice as many seminarians as the number of men we lose from our pastorates each year through death and retirement. I have interpreted this as meaning, not that we have an over-supply of candidates, but that we can feel more confident of meeting the new demands which are placed upon us.

With regard to these new demands I have pointed out that in addition to a number of our graduates who each year plan to go to the foreign mission field, there are at least six other areas of ministry which are open to those who prepare for full-time service. Those six areas are: administrative work, including full-time Synod presidencies and staff positions on our Boards, Commissions and auxiliary organizations; armed services and Veterans' Administration chaplaincies; interdenominational work in local and national councils of churches; an increasing number of churches engaging full-time assistant or associate pastors or directors of religious education; the division of charges so that two or more require separate pastoral services where only one pastor was previously needed; the new mission congregations which we are organizing each year; and perhaps we should anticipate a seventh area of service if, as is anticipated by some, there is a further development in industrial chaplaincies. Reference might well be made also to those who eventually teach in our theological seminaries and in the departments of Bible and religion in colleges. It is my own judgment that we should look upon all these areas of service as not only legitimate but imperative claims upon our witness to the Gospel.

Reformed Alliance and World Council

My trip to Europe, which later developed into a 10-week stay, was originally planned to involve only three weeks during which I would represent our Church at the annual meetings of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches and the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. I have already reported in articles in The Messenger on outstanding developments of both those meetings, and will not burden General Council with a detailed report here. Several things should be in your thinking, however, and I cite them briefly now.

The Alliance continued to stand strictly by its previously affirmed policy of conceiving its program within and subsidiary to the larger ecumenical movement. The reception into its membership of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil illustrates and confirms one point I made earlier before General Council in advocating our continued membership in and support of the Alliance. Support and interest of the Alliance without doubt strengthened the hand of that Church in Brazil as a result of which its responsible leadership could successfully counteract the disruptive influence of Carl McIntyre. Further, this Brazilian Church's representative at Princeton said that his only hope of getting the Independent Presbyterian Church into the World Council of Churches was by first having it experience a few years of fellowship in the more immediate circle of associations which the Alliance offers.

Decision of the World Council's Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees to devote a larger proportion of its interest and resources to Asia and Africa was doubtless the outstanding development in the Council meetings. Implications of this decision for our own Board of International Missions and Commission on World Service will become more evident as time goes on. But it clearly confirms our action of almost two years ago in taking steps to bring about closer liaison between our Board and our Commission.

The Central Committee approved plans to develop the headquarters property and facilities at Geneva, including eventually a chapel, a library, and, most immediately, adequate office accommodations. Cost is estimated at $750,000 of which it is hoped to raise $450,000 from individuals and foundations. The other $300,000 is to be raised by the member churches approximately in accordance with the proportion of their support of the Council's general budget. This money, it is hoped, will be transmitted within the next three years so that the project may be completed or well in hand by the 10th anniversary of the founding of the World Council at Amsterdam. A suggested quota of $245,400 was given to the American member churches, and at an informal meeting of representatives of these American churches a proportionate allocation of that quota was agreed upon. Our share was set at $9,025.00 which is quite equitable in comparison with shares asked of other member-churches, e.g., Congregational Christian Churches, $14,000; Evangelical United Brethren, $9,000; United Lutheran Church, $13,700; Presbyterian USA, $39,875, etc., etc. Our share could be distributed over the next three years, but if we could transmit it earlier in the period it would obviously facilitate the Council's proceeding with the project.

One further matter to which we ought to give some thought. We do not have one faculty-member from any of our seminaries serving on any of the Council's study committees. Inquiry reveals that there will be no difficulty in having one or more appointed to these committees. The one condition is that we ought to be prepared to subsidize such a representative's attendance at occasional study meetings of his committee. Our denominational life would be enriched by such contacts and I am sure that we have theologians who could contribute worthily to the development of Christian thought in these Council agencies. This is another purpose which can be served by the Ecumenical Travel Fund which General Council has already approved in principle.

The Synod Presidents

By January 1, 1956, 20 of our 34 Synods will have full-time Presidents. They include Central Pennsylvania, East Pennsylvania, Iowa, Kansas City, Lancaster, Lehigh, Mercersburg, Missouri Valley, Northeast Ohio, Northern, North Illinois, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Potomac, Reading, Southern, South Indiana, Southwest Ohio, Texas, and West New York. In addition, the Pacific Northwest and California Synods are now fully organized into the West Coast Area with a full-time Area President. Several others of our Synods are likely to establish the full-time presidency by next spring.

The annual Conference of Synod Presidents will be held at Cleveland, November 2-3. (A copy of the program is included as an appendix to this report.) The program will include careful presentations of pertinent sections of the Constitution and By-Laws, procedures which have been developed over the past and now constitute part of our unwritten law and precedent, the general job analysis of the full-time presidency, the program of the Commission on Church and Ministry, and the processing of statistical and parochial reports as well as the relationship between Synods and the Treasurer of the Church. In view of our coming union the evening session will be devoted to an address by the Rev. Fred S. Buschmeyer, D.D. on "The Ministry in the Congregational Christian Churches", and an address on "The Office and Work of the Conference Superintendents of the Congregational Christian Churches" by the Rev. Everett A. Babcock, D.D., Superintendent of the Ohio Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches. I myself am scheduled to make a statement on "The Union Up-to-Date". In this way it is hoped that our Synod Presidents will be fully informed as to what has developed and what is likely to develop in the immediate future with regard to the union.

Form for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship

At our last meeting we considered the suggestion of the Central Pennsylvania Synod that we should have an official form of "Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship". In the discussion which ensued it was contended that, in the interest of retaining our recognition of the relative independence of our pastors and congregations, this form should be, not a "Request", but a "Report" on the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. General Council therefore voted to authorize "the preparation of a form for a Report of the Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship". It was later discovered that By-Law 74-d specifically provides that "When a resignation has been duly accepted, the Synod or the Synodical Council shall dissolve the pastoral relationship and declare the pulpit vacant". This provision seems to be entirely consistent with other established principles and procedures whereby it is the Synod through its Synodical Council or its Placement Committee which presents to a vacant charge the names of approved candidates, confirms the call extended to a pastor by the vacant charge, and arranges for his installation by a properly appointed synodical committee; and it is the Synod to which both the ministers and the congregations within its bounds are amenable at all times.

It is suggested, therefore, that General Council reconsider its previous action and amend the same by substituting the words "Request for" for the words "Report of" in the title of the proposed form; and that the following form be approved:

REQUEST FOR DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP

(Three copies to be filled in and sent to the President of Synod. After the Synodical Council has approved, and the President's signature has been added, one copy should be retained in the files of the Synod, the others returned to the charge and pastor respectively)

DATE______________________19 __

To the Synodical Council of
____________________Synod
Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Whereas the Rev.__________________________________has submitted his resignation as pastor of__________________________Charge or Congregation to the Consistory (Joint Consistory) of the same to become effective as of DATE______________________19__;

And whereas the Consistory (Joint Consistory) of the________________ Charge or Congregation has accepted this resignation;

We, the pastor and Consistory (Joint Consistory) join in requesting the Synodical Council of_______________________Synod to dissolve the pastoral relationship now existing between the Rev._____________________________________ and the______________________________Charge or Congregation, to become effective as of DATE____________________19__.

APPROVED BY SYNODICAL COUNCIL

DATE__________________19 __
____________________Synod
____________________President

SIGNED BY

President of Consistory (Joint Consistory)

____

Secretary of Consistory (Joint Consistory)

____

Minister

____

Conference on the Churches and Social Welfare

I repeat here again what I said when I originally announced it, that the National Conference on the Churches and Social Welfare which is to be held in Cleveland, November 1-4, is likely to prove to have been one of the most crucial and creative projects sponsored by the National Council of Churches since its organization in 1950. Of a maximum delegation of 51 allocated to us we have enrolled 49 representing the following: Commission on Benevolent Institutions (21), Board of National Missions (7), Commission on Christian Social Action (6), Commission on Higher Education (2), Board of Christian Education and Publication (3), Commission on Church and Ministry (3), Women's Guild (2), Commission on World Service (2), Churchmen's Brotherhood (1), General Council (1) and the Administrative Assistant to the President. Since they were to represent the Church at this conference as well as the interests of the various Boards, Commissions and agencies, we have subsidized each delegate from the general funds in the amount of $12.25 which covers the registration fee and the charge for the Fellowship Luncheon, including the latter because it was felt that this item could be handled most expediently in this way.

National Conference on the Church and Economic Life

The call has now been issued to the Third National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life. It will be held in Pittsburgh, April 12-15, 1956. It is to consist of approximately 400 delegates to be appointed by the denominations and by allied religious bodies. We have been allocated a quota of 20 delegates. On the basis of distribution suggested by those responsible for the Conference, our delegation should include ten about evenly divided between representatives of agriculture, business and industry, and labor; seven or eight delegates from the general lay public including those in education, the professions (including economists), public office, civic organizations and/or officers of organized consumers' groups; and two or three clergymen including either pastors, denominational or interdenominational executives, teachers in theological seminaries or church colleges, etc. It might expedite matters if General Council were to authorize the President, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action, to name our delegation.

The wide variety of occupational and professional interests desired at this Conference will indicate something of the breadth of its purpose. That purpose is further well expressed in the words of the Call issued by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President of the National Council, in which he said in part:

> "The theme of this Conference will be: 'The Christian Conscience and an Economy of Abundance.' It's basic concern will be the relevance of the Christian faith, including such concepts as Christian vocation and Christian responsibility, to an economic order which has already achieved a high standard of living and which seems capable of continued growth in productivity and per capita wealth. The delegates will consider such specific elements in economic life as individual motivation and decision-making; responsibilities of organized economic groups; productivity and employment; distribution, selling, and consumption; the role of government in the economy; foreign economic policy. Certain specific responsibilities of the churches in their program and message bearing on economic life will receive special attention.
>
> "The six years since the second National Study Conference in Detroit have witnessed momentous developments in the life of the Protestant and Orthodox churches of this nation: the merger of thirteen interdenominational bodies in the National Council of Churches; the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches which gave notable attention to the relation of the Church to economic life; the near completion of

> an eight-year study on the ethics and economics of society, under the direction of the National Council's Department of the Church and Economic Life; the issuance of a comprehensive statement on 'Christian Principles and Assumptions for Economic Life' for the guidance of the members of the Council's constituent churches.
>
> "Thus the churches have developed both understanding and strength in promoting their concern for the effects of economic problems and issues in the community, nation, and world. They have done this in a period when the lives and welfare of people have felt the impact of a generally expanding economy and a rapid succession of many diverse trends. As a people we have had to react to and deal with problems such as large-scale mobilization for war with mounting production, full employment, and inflationary pressures; post-war readjustments with over-extended inventories, shifts in employment, and problems of financial stability; spectacular progress in technology,--atomic energy, automation, and agricultural productivity; the growing awareness of the increasingly organized character of economic life.
>
> "The time has now come, in the judgment of the National Council of Churches, for a renewal of direct conference between responsible leaders in economic life and responsible leaders of the churches. Since 99 per cent of church members are lay men and women, these will in many instances hold responsible positions in both the churches and the economy. Indeed, stimulation of the moral and ethical concerns of lay people in their daily work life and in the economy as a whole is a primary and constant obligation of the churches."

This Conference too will concern itself with a vital area of the Church's witness. It is highly important that our Church should be fully represented at it. If we ask these 20 people to represent us, we ought to be prepared to underwrite their expenses. I hope that General Council will authorize provision to this end on the part of its Committee on Finance and Budget.

Revised Tentative Plans for Visit to Mission Fields

It was my original plan to leave early in November for a visit to our mission fields in Japan, Hong Kong, India, Iraq and West Africa, with the hope that in February following General Council meeting I might visit our fields in Honduras and Ecuador. When the European trip was extended to ten weeks instead of three, I just could not contemplate the prospect of leaving so soon on what would have been a 2-month tour of our fields in Asia and Africa. Moreover, my probable schedule is now complicated with the increasing momentum of union activities as well as the preparations for our 1956 General Synod. It has become clearer, meanwhile, that to do justice to the fields concerned, it would be better to make the visits to the Asia-Africa fields in two tours instead of one. At present, therefore, but very tentatively, I am thinking of this possible schedule:- late February and March, 1956, Honduras and Ecuador; November-December, 1956, Japan, Hong Kong and India; March, 1957, Iraq and Togoland. I would be glad to have any reactions of General Council to these possibilities.

Native Mission Representatives at General Synod

General Council at its meeting in September, 1954, approved the President's proposal for the establishment of an Ecumenical Travel item in our budget and asserted, among other things, that it "believes that the whole work of the Church would be strengthened by native representation at the meeting of the General Synod". In anticipation of the coming General Synod I have asked the counsel of Dr. Ehlman. He estimates the cost of bringing a visitor from our respective mission fields as follows:

Field	Travel	Incidentals
India	$1,700.00	$300.00
Japan	1,200.00	300.00
China	1,600.00	300.00
Honduras	450.00	300.00
Iraq	1,200.00	300.00
Ecuador	700.00	300.00
Africa	1,600.00	300.00

Since it seemed unlikely that, for the first time, we should wish to undertake bringing a native representative from each of all seven fields, Dr. Ehlman was asked to suggest which fields might be chosen for this first experiment. He suggests India, Japan and Togoland, Africa. That is a happy choice since it includes one field dear to the hearts of people out of the former "E" tradition, one of special interest from the former "R" tradition, and one which by a happy turn of events came more recently into the interest of the united Church. Our procedure in this matter might well be as follows: name of the person selected from each field to be secured through Dr. Ehlman and his colleagues; an official invitation sent to each by the President of the Church; the office of our Board asked to make all necessary travel arrangements and get these visitors to Lancaster in ample time for the opening of General Synod; the Board to be reimbursed for travel and incidentals; and, finally, the Board be encouraged, at the expenditure of its own resources, to use these visitors for deputation work among our churches as long as their visas and personal circumstances and inclination make them available for this purpose.

General Synod Committee on Nominations

By-Law 87-a provides that: "Each Synodical Council, by June 15 in the year of the meeting of the General Synod, shall appoint to the membership of the Committee on Nominations one minister or one lay member from the delegates elected by the Synod according to a schedule to be determined by the General Council. The President of the Church shall appoint one additional member who shall serve as the chairman of that committee." One simple way to determine this schedule would be to take action declaring that, for the General Synod of 1956, odd-numbered synods as they are listed alphabetically in the Year Book should choose ministerial members of the Committee, even-numbered synods choose lay members of the Committee; that the schedule be reversed for the next General Synod and from then on, according to this pattern, alternate for each succeeding General Synod.

Two Vacancies to be Filled

There are two vacancies to be filled to which General Council will want to give some careful thought. In keeping with the policy adopted by General Council, Dr. William L. Rest has resigned as a member of General Council in view of the fact that he has been elected as full-time President of North Illinois Synod. I have ventured to think that General Council may wish to consider the name of Dr. Albert G. Gonser as a possibility for this vacancy since his name was most prominent in our minds when a previous vacancy was to be filled.

Dr. Alfred N. Sayres, for reasons of his own health and that of his wife's, finds it necessary to resign as a member and chairman of the Committee on Liturgics. I would venture to recommend consideration of the names of Dr. D. Bard Thompson and/or Dr. R. Pierce Beaver for election to this committee. Dr. Thompson, formerly on the faculty of Candler School of Theology at Emory University, has recently been appointed Associate Professor of Church History in the School of Religion at Vanderbilt University. His major field of study has been in the history of the German Reformation and he is currently preparing a translation of the five major liturgies of the Reformed Churches in the sixteenth century, Bucer's Strassburg liturgy, Calvin's Genevan liturgy, John a Lasco's London liturgy, the Palatinate liturgy, and John Knox's Genevan Service Book. Dr. Beaver, onetime missionary in China, was for some years a member of the faculty of Lancaster Theological Seminary where he taught various courses in worship, missions, and the ecumenical movement; has been more recently librarian of the Foreign Missions Library in New York City; and has just begun an appointment as Professor of Missions on the federated faculty of the divinity schools affiliated with the University of Chicago. Either of these men has both background and interest which would enable him to make a major contribution to the work of this committee, and the appointment of either would be a means of keeping them actively identified with the ongoing life and work of our Church. The appointment of either would have to be made subject to his acceptance of the same.

Recognition of Two Executives

My attention has been called to the fact that the Rev. Huber F. Klemme, D.D. and the Rev. Fred C. Schweinfurth, D.D., this year have completed ten years as Executive Secretary, respectively, of the Commission on Christian Social Action and the Commission on Evangelism. General Council will want to recognize appropriately the able and faithful services of these two brethren.

I note that on December 31, 1944 our communicant membership was 689,780 and the 1954 figure quoted above will indicate that under Dr. Schweinfurth's administration there has been a substantial and encouraging net gain in our numbers.

In the case of Dr. Klemme, I think special reference should be made to the fact that he has carried the executive burden for that agency of our Church which in the very nature of the responsibilities assigned to it is most fully calculated to evoke controversy and invite criticism on those who spearhead its work. It is my belief that our Commission on Christian Social Action has established itself in the confidence and respect of our people as completely as the nature of its work is likely to allow. Moreover, I have felt that since Dr. Klemme's little book "The Bible and Our Common Life" was published our people have had this means of knowing that his leadership of our social witness is deeply grounded in the imperatives of the Word of God and of the spirit of the prophets and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I personally hold these two brethren in highest esteem as fellow workmen, and, in addition to our good wishes for them both and for their work, our prayers will continue to be offered for the health and complete recovery of Dr. Schweinfurth. Such references to these two men may serve as a reminder of our general indebtedness to the executives of our Boards, Commissions and agencies whose work, just because it is so good and steadfast, we are likely to accept with an unintended casualness and to take their sacrificial labors for granted. We are constantly indebted to them all.

Seal, Coat of Arms, Escutcheon, Official Colors

I bring to the attention of General Council a matter which will not be new to my predecessor in the President's office. Dr. Goebel had an inquiry from one of our pastors in 1951 as to where he could obtain a cut of "the symbol of the Evangelical and Reformed Church", to which Dr. Goebel replied: "The Evangelical and Reformed Church has no such symbol. The one you are referring to was the symbol of the former Reformed Church in the United States." I have had similar inquiries, for example, from the executive director of the Department of Worship and the Arts of the National Council of Churches, as well as from pastors and synod presidents.

As time permitted I have gathered together what I could. From one source I received a page taken from a loose-leaf notebook on which is pasted a clipping bearing in colors what appears to have been the official escutcheon of the former Reformed Church in the United States, and above it an interpretation of the same. The interpretation reads as follows:

"The Escutcheon is divided into four sections by a large cross, upon which appears the legend 'In Hoc Signo Vinces' -- 'In This Sign Conquer'. This design was taken from the Reformed Church in a German District.

"The first section" (quadrant left top) "carries a" (square) "field divided equally into blue and white" (by a line running from top left to lower right of the square) "representing the colors of Zurich. On this field is placed the Burning Bush, an emblem used by the Reformed Church in France. The legend is--'I am burned but not consumed'.

"The second section" (right top quadrant) "shows a field of scarlet, the color of Switzerland. On it is placed the seal of Calvin, a hand holding a heart. Its legend is--'I yield my heart promptly and sincerely to Thee, O God.'

"The third section" (lower left quadrant) "is given entirely to Zwingli's coat of arms. The colors are gold and black," (divided by a perpendicular line through the center of the quadrant). "In the center of the field is a ring" (gold on black, black on gold) "which is used as a symbol of eternity.

"The fourth section" (lower right quadrant) "reproduces the colors of the Palatinate, which are blue and white" (shown in alternating diamond-shaped units) "the same as the colors of Zurich. On the diagonal field is placed 'the Lily among thorns'."

A fine line of type over the top of this shield reads "The Reformed Church in the U.S." Phrases in parenthesis in the above description are my own additions to the clipping's text. According to a letter from Rev. Ralph Kuether, St. John's Church, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, has a wood carving of this shield, about one foot wide and high, and painted in vivid colors.

Dr. Carl E. Schneider, when I wrote him about symbols or seals of the former Evangelical Synod, replied:

"I am enclosing a seal of the Evangelical Synod which came into use about 1925 and was used quite extensively on letterheads of various boards and commissions.

"They seem to have been used in an official manner. However, I have never been able to discover whether this seal was ever designated as the official seal. I doubt very much whether official colors were ever indicated."

Two accompanying illustrations of this seal show a circle within a circle, in the space between the two being the words "Evangelical Synod of North America". The inner circle contains a rather crowded design showing what look like bunches of grapes undergirded by leaves; a chalice in the center; at left, above, and right of the chalice the capital letters, respectively, J, H and S, which one can only guess may be a variation of the more familiar I H S; and below the chalice the reference "John 15, 5, 16" which, in spite of the comma after 15, doubtless refers to John 15:5, 16.

Then, the 1941 Year Book and Almanac carries on its cover, blue and red on the cream or buff colored cover paper, an emblem which was also carried in black and white on the cover of "The Outlook of Missions" for September, 1940. On page 17 of the Year Book is the following explanation of the emblem:

"On the front cover of the Year Book and Almanac appears an emblem which is of special significance at the present time. For by the time the book is in your hand our united Church will be in the midst of a celebration of three great anniversaries:- the 100th of the founding of the Evangelical Synod of North America, the 50th of the Hungarian Reformed Church in this country, and the 215th of the beginning of the Reformed Church in the United States.

"The anniversary emblem was conceived in the fertile brain of the Rev. J. P. Meyer, D.D., now superintendent of the Evangelical Deaconess Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The artist who executed the design was Mr. Fred Toelle, son of the Rev. H. C. Toelle, pastor of Zion Church, St. Louis.

"For an interpretation of the emblem we reprint here an article from The Messenger of June 20, 1940, written by Professor Carl E. Schneider, Ph.D., of Eden Theological Seminary. Dr. Schneider is Chairman of the Committee on Anniversary Celebrations. His interpretation follows:

"'The central symbol of the emblem is the cross. Under it are gathered four other symbols, the hour-glass, the open church-doors, the Bible, and the uplifted hands.

"'The cross emphasizes the centrality of the sacrifice Christ brought once for all mankind. "For neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved". Acts 4:12.

"'Witness to the cross was borne through the ages. Years came, years went, customs changed, men grew proud and rich, they followed ways of their own choosing. They fell and were abased, they spoke proudly of progress and development, only to end on the note of despair.

"'Silently the hour-glass bears witness that only time passes. Man really remains unimproved. He commits the sins of his fathers, but he does it more efficiently and devastingly. He brings his days to an end with a sigh. All he has to show for his troubles are his mis-spent years. So speaks the hour-glass.

"'And so men found that the years in themselves have no meaning. The years can have meaning only as man enters the open doors of the Church and comes under the proclamation of a Gospel which alone can deal effectively with time and the ravages of time. In the midst of the stream of history the Church bore witness to the abiding presence of an eternal Lord who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

"'In the Church men were reminded to have their steps guided by a book, The Bible, which has a message neither old nor new, but eternal. And as men hearkened to the voice of the Church they searched the Scriptures and found themselves in kinship with Moses and the prophets, with Jesus and the apostles.

"'Then, as men came upon the recognition that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, they lifted up their hands in prayer, signifying their allegiance and loyalty to Him, imploring of Him the forgiveness of their sins, and expectantly waiting of Him the gift of life and salvation.'"

Some time ago, with the kind co-operation of Mr. William R. Pelster,Jr., manager of Eden Publishing House, I was enabled to send to all our pastors a copy of a printed sheet showing the official seal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in various sizes which pastors might have reproduced on their own printing. This seal was adopted by the General Synod of 1942.

I give you all this information because perhaps General Council should give some thought to this matter. We have an official seal. Should we have official colors, an official coat-of-arms, escutcheon, emblem, which might appropriately serve as an embellishment of art and printing used by our churches and official agencies, and which might become part of the treasury of symbols not only of our Church but of the whole Christian Church throughout all the world? Should the task of drawing up tentative designs be assigned, for example, to our Committee on Liturgics, perhaps in consultation with the Historical Committee?

The CC-ER Union

We continue to move forward toward the union of our Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Congregational Christian Churches. Since our last regular meeting in February a succession of meetings have been held and developments registered. The Joint Co-ordinating Committee previously set up to plan and promote steps leading up to the union held meetings in Cincinnati and Lancaster on March 15 and April 14, respectively, which were followed by the Joint Meeting of our General Council and the CC Executive Committee at Cleveland June 21-22. Major structural result of these meetings was to dissolve the former Joint Co-ordinating Committee and establish in its stead a "Joint Planning Committee consisting of ten members from each denomination....the personnel of the Administrative Committee and the Advisory Committee (to) be included." Our contingent in this Joint Planning Committee includes, besides the Administrative Committee, Dr. Gerhard W. Grauer, Dr. John R. C. Haas and Mr. Marlyn A. Rader, with Dr. Mackey serving (without vote) as co-secretary. This Joint Planning Committee is scheduled to meet November 9 at Cleveland, and another Joint Meeting of our General Council and the CC Executive Committee is to be held there on December 8.

The Joint Planning Committee held its first meeting on June 22 after adjournment of the Joint Meeting of the ER General Council and the CC Executive Committee. Among actions taken at that time the General Council will wish to take note of the following:

1. Appointment of a Joint Committee on Public Relations consisting of Mr. Ashby E. Bladen, Mrs. Arthur T. Calvert, and the Rev. Jerry W. Trexler, for the CC Churches; and Dr. W. S. Kerschner, Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey and Mr. Marlyn A. Rader, for the Evangelical and Reformed Church:- the Rev. Mr. Trexler and Dr. Mackey to serve as co-conveners.

2. While it had been hoped to hold the uniting General Synod, or at least the uniting service on June 25, 1957, in a church or chapel, it was finally voted that "we plan to hold our uniting General Synod in a place where we can take care of people in the thousands, and that we search for appropriate churches nearby in which to hold our preliminary separate meetings."

3. Dr. Buschmeyer and Dr. Wagner were designated as a committee to explore both the matter of program and the matter of ecumenical guests to be invited to the uniting General Synod.

4. It was voted to "recommend to the Congregational Christian Executive Committee and the Evangelical and Reformed General Council that each invite its counterpart to attend the meetings of its national body in 1956 for the two or three days which each would consider most expedient." I venture to observe that since our National Churchmen's Brotherhood Convention is to be held June 20-24 next year, we should probably consider June 25-27 as the period when we could most expediently attend the CC General Council. With regard to our own General Synod, both the Labor Day week-end and the fact that we should have disposed of our discussion of the union by that time would seem to suggest September 5-7 as the most expedient dates during which our CC brethren and sisters might visit with us.

To implement the plan for a united project in the fields of stewardship, evangelism and life enlistment, the following developments have taken place. The date for the annual conference of our Kingdom Service chairmen was changed to June 8 at Racine, Wisconsin, where then on June 9-10 a Joint Promotional Meeting was held attended by Congregational Christian Conference Superintendents and Stewardship Chairmen and by Evangelical and Reformed Synod Presidents and Chairmen of Synodical Committees on United Promotion. The joint project further developed at Racine now includes the substance of both the emphasis on "Christian Commitment and Christian Community" which we had already launched and which the Congregational Christian leaders found it easy and desirable to adapt for use in their communion, and the annual Kingdom Roll Call. Methods and materials are being developed jointly for use in congregations of both communions this fall.

The Joint Committee to Study Basic Christian Doctrines plans to hold its first meeting November 25-27 in New York City.

Meanwhile, the Congregational Christian Laymen's Fellowship and our own Churchmen's Brotherhood have taken initiative in proposing to sponsor seven regional joint conferences for the following stated purpose: "to train carefully selected church leaders to go back to their respective conferences, conventions and synods with information, techniques and programs for acquainting people of the churches with the two communions.....not to debate the merger pro or con, but to present the history, organization and present program of both groups."

It is proposed to include among those invited to these conferences the following: State Superintendents, Synod Presidents, Keymen, State Presidents, Federation Presidents, Women's Guild Regional Presidents, Women State Presidents and a representative group of outstanding local church leaders. The seven regions contemplated in this plan, with dates and places of proposed meetings, are:

1. Merom, Indiana, November 18-20, including Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin. This conference, dated much earlier than the other six, is conceived of as a pilot project.

2. Berkeley, California, January 7-8, including Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico.

3. Houston, Texas, January 14-15, including Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas.

4. Lancaster, Pennsylvania, February 4-5, including Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.

5. Walla Walla, Washington, February 18-19, including Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

6. Framingham, Massachusetts, March 3-4, including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York City.

7. Elon College, North Carolina, April 21-22, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

It is estimated that the total cost involved will approximate $12,150.00. The two lay organizations will subsidize the pilot first conference but will require subsidy for the other six. On a pro rata division between the two communions it would appear that our share would be not more than $5,000. General Council will want to express its approval or disapproval of the proposed series of conferences, and, if approving, make appropriate provision to meet our share of the costs.

One other union matter requires consideration at this meeting. The Joint Committee on Public Relations met on July 28 and took action proposing that "an additional staff member for the Office of Communications should be secured and financed by the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This person would serve only until the end of the Uniting General Synod in June, 1957. It is the conviction of the Joint Committee on Public Relations that such a person is absolutely essential....(He) would have his office in Chicago." Proposed budget (12-month) for this staff person is as follows:

Salaries:	
Executive	$ 5,000
Typist	2,600
Retirement, etc.	880
Equipment (non-recurring)	950
Rent	400
Supplies	200
Postage	200
Telephone and Telegraph	250
Travel	900
Mimeograph and mailing	900
Photographs	250
	$12,530

The work of the Congregational Christian Office of Communications as the designated agent of the Joint Committee on Public Relations is estimated to cost a minimum of $38,000 for the period September 1, 1955 to June 30, 1956, this minimum not including an item for postage for the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Our share of the estimated cost, not including postage, is proposed as $19,000. General Council will want to make provision for the same.

Among other developments might be mentioned a Social Action Institute held at Chicago Theological Seminary September 12-16 for representatives of both communions, during which some preliminary thinking was done looking toward joint work which might be done through our Commission on Christian Social Action and the Congregational Christian Council for Social Action. On September 20 at Cleveland there was a joint meeting of staff members of the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions and counterpart staff persons from boards, commissions and agencies of the Evangelical and Reformed Church; at this meeting an effort was made to acquaint those from each communion with the way similar work is being carried on in the other.

General Council will wish to give attention to several documents which bear on our people's current thinking about the union. Dr. Friedrich Herzog, in an article in the spring bulletin of the Theological Seminary of the Mission House, raises many searching questions about the theological foundations of the proposed union. He bases his article on an analysis of the series of resolutions adopted by General Council at Chicago in February, 1954. Many of the questions raised are appropriate enough but the one unfavorable reaction the article evokes is as to its negative spirit and to the apparent presupposition that the true answers to the questions will be against proceeding with the union. The second document appeared in The Messenger, originated with members of the faculty of Eden Theological Seminary and several parish ministers, and was later adopted by Missouri Valley Synod as an address to General Council. This document also raises profound theological questions but does so in a spirit presupposing that those questions can be given an affirmative answer and that consummation of this union can be attained without compromising Christian truth and experience. The third document comes from North Wisconsin Synod over the names of a committee including Dr. Friedrich Herzog, Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann and Dr. W. F. Kuentzel, all members of the Mission House Seminary faculty. The document reads:

"The North Wisconsin Synod overtures the General Council to direct a program of study which would clarify for our churches the following:

> "1. The Biblical basis for merger, particularly the words of our Lord, as recorded in John 17:21, 'That they all may be one, etc.'
>
> "2. The doctrine of the Trinity in the Statement of Faith (Basis of Union).
>
> "3. The place of the Bible in the proposed denomination, the significance of the tradition of the Church to faith and fellowship, and the interrelation of the Bible, tradition and fellowship.
>
> "4. The constitutional relationship of the congregation to higher judicatories, e.g., the General Synod, as anticipated in the *Interpretations* of the *Basis of Union* (b-4)."

There are several comments which most readily suggest themselves. *One*, we have been making every effort to have our people study the Basis of Union and Interpretations, the history and life and work of the two communions. *Two*, we have been doing, as my own report in the 1955 Blue Book for Synods stated very clearly, everything we could to encourage free, frank and full discussion, suggesting only that any definitive action in the Synods be deferred until 1956 when such actions would be more fully informed. *Three*, such discussion, however, to be morally tolerable and fruitful of creative results, must be entered into with an open mind and not with a spirit which presupposes the answers, especially negative answers. *Four*, we have entrusted the theological exploration and spadework vital to the doctrinal soundness of our united life to a Joint Study Commission on which, among our eight representatives, are two members of the faculty of that Seminary which may not inaccurately be described as the source of documents appearing to prejudge the merits and possibilities of this union to which the Evangelical and Reformed Church has been now for almost a decade committing and recommitting itself by overwhelming votes at each General Synod.

Our people give evidence of a growing awareness of and interest in the proposed union. Dr. Mackey's office reports that as of September 27 there had been requests from 1,030 pastors for a total of 260,915 "United in Christ" folders and 227,752 copies of the reprint of my *Messenger* article on "Christ's Cause and We Will Gain by Union"; and, more recently, 438 requests for copies of the Historical Sketches pamphlet of which 20,321 were shipped gratis, and 1,325 additional copies at 10 cents each, a total of 21,646. With new strategies being developed to help our people become intelligent concerning the proposed union, and with full, free and frank (but let us hope unprejudiced) discussion at our synods next spring, commitment to the union and a growing expectancy as to its potentialities ought to gain momentum among us as time goes on.

Conclusion

I conclude this report on a note of profound encouragement as to the movement of the Holy Spirit through the life of our Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The emphasis on "Christian Commitment and Christian Community" with its undercurrent and overtones of mission in terms of evangelism, social witness, and the stewardship of time, abilities and material possessions, has apparently captured the interest and imagination of our pastors and people. The continued growing response of our congregations in support of the Kingdom Service and World Service budgets reflects a devotion which may well shame us for the "fear and trembling" with which we saw the last General Synod adopt a budget 25.8 per cent higher than any previous budget. The enlistment of our young people for full-time service in the Church is most encouraging, and we can surely expect that, with our Commission on Church and Ministry now fully organized, the number and quality of those enlistments will increase. The fact that Evangelical and Reformed attendants exceeded by more than a hundred their quota of 250 for the 23rd International Sunday School Convention in Cleveland July 27-31 is evidence that our people have not lost their zeal for the cause of Christian Education. The aim of our Board of National Missions to establish 15 new congregations this year, and the commissioning of ten new workers by our Board of International Missions including two medical doctors and a registered nurse, are facts which assure us that the missionary spirit of our people is not declining. Our Cabinet on Correlation and Promotion has been steadily pursuing two lines of exploration which bear great promise for the future of our Church:- they have been appraising their own programs and methods as part of the continuation of the work begun by the Study Committee of the last triennium; and they have been preparing an Advance program for the next triennium to be presented to the General Synod of 1956.

Meanwhile, as reported in detail above, the movement toward the union of Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church is gaining momentum. Hard work lies ahead of us, especially for those of us who must work out the proposed preliminary legislation for action by the respective national bodies in 1956 and who must make the detailed plans for the Uniting General Synod now scheduled for 1957. We have, doubtless, many problems to face, many difficulties to surmount. Other than the grace of God and the overshadowing sense of the oneness in Christ which already binds His people of various communions together, the one sustaining, compelling factor is the growing realization that in a very real sense the eyes of the Christian world are upon us. They know that we have committed ourselves to a stupendous task. They are aware that its magnitude derives from the possibility that here in America we may be privileged to add one more demonstration to the surer possibilities of Christian union which have already been demonstrated by the Church of South India, the United Church of Canada, and others.

Whether it is with regard to the inner life of our communion or to the ecumenical adventure of organic union on which we are embarked, one cannot help but feel that once again, as in that grand far-off beginning, the Spirit of God is moving upon the face of the waters; and it must be our prayer that we may be used by His Spirit, in our missionary, educational, evangelistic and ecumenical witness, to be in our day partners with God in the further process of bringing order out of chaos which God has been at work on since that day when Time began. Surely we will be unanimous in our prayers that God may make us equal to the tasks and possibilities now confronting us.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. WAGNER, President

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON PERSONS GRANTED PRIVILEGE OF CALL OR RENEWAL OF PRIVILEGE OF CALL BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, OR WHO ARE APPLYING FOR IT.

Applications for Privilege of Call Approved by the Administrative Committee

The Rev. William Webster Hall, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Age 51. Schooling: Princeton University, Union Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1937. Married, two children. References: Rev. Robert Herrmann, Rev. Raymond F. Frankenfeld.

The Rev. Marvin Edgar Rickert, 536 Eggert Road, Buffalo 15, New York. Age 51. Schooling: Naperville, Illinois and Pickaway Township Centralized School, Circleville, Ohio, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois and Yale Divinity School. Ordained by the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1934. Married. References: Rev. William Tempest, Rev. Walter Hetzel, Rev. Julius Kuck

Applications for Privilege of Call Awaiting Action

The Rev. Laszlo Aaron Borsay, Box 186, Delhi, Ontario, Canada. Age 40. Schooling: General education in Budapest, Hungary; Reformed Theological Academy, Budapest. Ordained by the Hungarian Reformed Church in 1942. Married, six children. References: Rev. Stephen Bessemer, Rev. Leslie Kecskemethy.

The Rev. Harry T. Ehlers, Box 306, Lone Tree, Iowa. Age 42. Schooling: Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin public schools, Whitewater State Teacher's College, Whitewater, Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois. Ordained by the Methodist Church in 1947. Married, two daughters. References: Rev. Joseph M. Newgard, Rev. Emanuel Jasman.

The Rev. Samuel Mac Crea Forster, 5331 Horrocks Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Age 40. Schooling: South Philadelphia High School; Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Reformed Episcopal Seminary, Philadelphia; Lutheran Seminary, Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania. Ordained by the Reformed Episcopal Church in 1950. Married, one child. References: Rev. Harry Spink, Rev. George Spink, Rev. Charles O. Bayard.

The Rev. Anthony Henry Sarrio, 215 E. Pike Street, Houston, Pennsylvania. Age 51. Schooling: University of Pittsburgh and University of South Carolina, American Divinity School. Ordained by the Methodist Church in 1939. Married, two sons. References: Rev. Harold H. Harris.

Application for Renewal of Privilege of Call Awaiting Action

The Rev. Michael Hogye, 516 Vista Drive, Falls Church, Virginia. Age 42. Schooling: Gimnasium, Kispet, Hungary; Faculty of Divinity, Budapest, Hungary; Faculty of Divinity, Strasbourg, France. Ordained by the Reformed Church of Hungary in 1936. Married, one child. References: Rev. Barnabas Dienes, Rev. Victor Racz. Granted Privilege of Call on March 8, 1949; renewed 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954. Dr. Wagner wrote President of Magyar Synod quoting action taken by General Council in February 1955 regarding renewal of Privilege of Call. President Bessemer replied: "I did not know that his application was renewed annually since 1949. Since our Synodical Council decided to ask for another renewal, I would feel much better if at least once more this Privilege of Call would be renewed with the understanding that if Rev. Hogye is not going to take a pastorate in one of our congregations within the next year, then his Privilege of Call is not going to be renewed the next time."

ELECTIONS APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul M. Schroeder to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Carl G. Haass as a representative of West New York Synod on the Board of Visitors of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster.

Rev. L. Meid Becker to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Elam G. Wiest as a member of the Commission on Stewardship.

Mr. Clifford G. Dennis, Jr., to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Harold D. Steinbright on the Board of Pensions and Relief.

APPOINTMENTS APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Stanley Wilke as Director of the Department of Missionary Education; salary, $5,000; rental allowance, $1,200. VOTED to approve the appointment, but in the interest of consistency in our financial arrangements with laymen employed by the Church, to recommend that Mr. Wilke's remuneration be set at $6,200 a year without division into salary and rental allowance. It was understood that Mr. Wilke will be employed on a part-time basis and his salary pro-rated until he has concluded his present work and is able to devote full time to his new duties.

Rev. William E. Wimer as Director of Adult Work and Family Life; salary, $5,400; rental allowance, $1,200.

Miss Lael Henderson as editor of Junior High publications; salary $3,800; no rental allowance.

Dr. Jerome Jay Fussell as Missions Editor of the Department of Missionary Education; salary $4,500; housing allowance, $1,200. Formerly religious editor for G. & C. Merriam Company,Springfield, Mass. Received the degree of Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Missouri in 1946. Later that year he entered the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. In 1948 he married Anita Koenig, daughter of the Rev. Hermann E. Koenig, one of the pastors of our Church, and sister of Dr. Robert E. Koenig, director of curriculum with the Board of Christian Education and Publication. During 1948-49 he served as director of youth work in Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church, Chicago, Ill. In 1949 he was graduated from the University of Chicago with the degree of Master of Arts after specializing in the History of Religions and writing a dissertation on "Muslim Methods of Propagating the Faith." In 1950-51 he was appointed a Fellow of the University of Chicago. In 1951 he accepted the post with the G. & C. Merriam Company, and in 1952 was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Chicago. He is presently a member of the United Church of Wilbraham, Mass. Although Dr. Fussell is not presently ordained, he is willing to consider ordination if that is a necessary condition for appointment to the job. He will transfer his membership to our denomination, if elected to the post of missions editor.

PRESIDENT S SCHEDULE, February 1, 1955 - September 30, 1955

February 6 - New Orleans, La., Morning, SERMON, First Church
7-10 - New Orleans, General Council and Committees
15-17 - Ottawa, Canada, Western Section of the Alliance of Reformed Churches Throughout the World Holding the Presbyterian Order
18-20 - Columbus, Ohio, National Advisory Council for Student Work, one SERMON, two ADDRESSES
21 - Philadelphia, Conference on Publicity and Public Relations in the Evangelical and Reformed Church
28-
March 3 - Chicago, Illinois, National Council of Churches meetings
6 - Dover, Penna., SERMON, Dedication, Dover Church
10 - New York City, Luncheon, Contributors to "52 Best Sermons"
13 - York, Penna., SERMON, Faith Church, 50th Anniversary
14 - New York City, meeting with New York area ministers, ADDRESS to Evangelical and Reformed Ministerial Association of Metropolitan New York on the merger
20 - Morning, Reading, Penna., SERMON, Second Church
Evening, Easton, Penna., SERMON, Installation of Dr. Teske
23 - Evening, Reading, Penna., SERMON, Trinity Church
24 - Lancaster, Penna., Conference with Mercersburg Synod officials
27 - Frederick, Maryland, Dedication of Chapel at Hood College

April 3 - Fairless Hills, Penna., SERMON, Church of the Reformation
6 - Philadelphia, Special Committee on Structure for Service to the Armed Forces Within the National Council
10 - Lancaster, Penna., SERMON, St. Peter's Church
12 - Robesonia, Penna., Area Conference, ADDRESS
13 - Lancaster, Penna., Administrative Committee and Joint Coordinating Committee for the Union
14 - Lancaster, Joint Coordinating Committee for the Union
15 - Alexandria, Penna., SERMON, Christ Church
17 - State College, Penna., SERMON, Pennsylvania State University
19-20 - Lincoln, Nebr., Nebraska Synod Spring Meeting, Denominational Representative
22 - Philadelphia, Visit of seminarians to the Schaff Building
24 - Evansville, Ind., SERMON, St. John's Church, 105th anniversary
25-26 - Klemme, Iowa, Iowa Synod Spring Meeting, Denominational Representative
28 - Detroit, Mich., SERMON, Bethel Church
29 - Marine City, Mich., Blue Water Regional Women's Guild, ADDRESS

May 1 - Milwaukee, Wis., Morning, SERMON, Grace "E" Church
Evening, ADDRESS, Deaconess Hospital Graduation
4-6 - Buck Hill Falls, Penna., World Council U.S. Conference
8 - Dushore, Penna., SERMON, Church of the Redeemer
Overton, Penna., SERMON, St. Paul's Church
9-11 - Auburn, N. Y., West New York Spring Synod Meeting, SERMON and Denominational Representative
12 - Philadelphia, Conference with CC's
15 - Mansfield, Ohio, SERMON, St. John's Church, 110th anniversary
17 - Philadelphia, Meeting of Executives
Evening, ADDRESS, Old First Church
21 - Milroy, Penna., State Conference of C.C.C. in Penna., ADDRESS
22 - Morning, Allentown, Penna., SERMON, Cedar Church
Evening, Gettysburg, Penna., SERMON, Trinity Church
25 - Philadelphia, Conference with Dr. Horton
28-29 - Visit with Hungarian Churches in Connecticut, SERMON and ADDRESS

June 2 - Cleveland, Ohio, Joint Committee of Lawyers
3 - Philadelphia, Pastor Berg of Germany visited
5 - Lancaster, Penna., Ordination SERMON for Joel A. Hartman, St. Peter's Church
7-9 - New York City, National Council meetings
10 - Lancaster, Penna., Board Meeting, Franklin and Marshall College
12 - Hickory Corners, Penna., SERMON, Zion Church
14 - New York City, Administrative Committee, North American Area Council
19 - New York City, participated in Frontiers of Faith broadcast
20 - Columbus, Ohio, Administrative Committee
21-22 - Columbus, Joint Meeting, ER General Council and CC Executive Committee
25 - Huntingdon, Penna., SERMON, Installation of Rev. Bert Wynn
26 - Dorseyville, Penna., ADDRESS, Dorseyville Home
27 - Buffalo, N.Y., SERMON, Installation of Rev. Julius Kuck

July 15 - Departed on European Trip
16-18 - Geneva, Switzerland
18-22 - Cret Brerard, Switzerland, Executive Committee, Alliance of Reformed Churches Throughout the World Holding the Presbyterian Order
22-30 - Geneva
30-
August 10 - Davos-Platz, Switzerland, Central Committee, World Council of Churches
10-11 - Frankfort, Germany. Mainz-Kastel (Gossner Mission, Pastor Symanowski, International Youth Work Camp on outskirts). Heilsberg refugee settlement on outskirts of Frankfort. Frankfort Hilfswerk office.
12 - Bonn (four hours with Prof. H. J Iwand)
Bielefeld (dinner with President D. Ernst Wilm)
13-15 - Munich (several barracks refugee camps, Dr. Kostovsky). Rumanian Orthodox monastery of St. Job. Rumanian memorial service at Regensburg. Kinderheim near Falkenstein. Valka camp near Nurnberg. Ingolstadt barracks refugee settlement.
16-18 - Berlin. Four hours in East Berlin. Barracks recreation center like one we gave. Heiligensee, Hilfswerk-financed housing development, two International Youth Work Camps. Three-hour conference with G. Gent, Dr. Freyss, Pastor Nofke, and my interpreter, at Hilfswerk offices.
19-21 - Hamburg. Wentorf refugee camp. Neuminster Hilfswerk. Rendsburg, lunch with Pastor Petersen and family. Sunday morning service at Trinity Church in Hamm section of Hamburg still worshipping in barracks church, new one about finished. Nearby a Gemeinde Haus built by Work Camp immediately after war ended.
22 - Beienrode ueber Helmstedt, overnight at Haus der helfenden Haende.
23-26 - guest of Church of Westphalia, Church auto and chauffeur at my disposal, Dr. Heinz Kloppenburg as my guide and interpreter. Espelkamp refugee settlement. Visit to Pastor Hans Fischer, Rotterdam German pastor now convalescing from heart attack. Deaconess Home and institutions at Detmold. Bielefeld overnight. Augustdorf refugee camp. Lunch at Bethel's Bauernschule with 20 or more East German catechists and parish-workers. Reception in Church offices at Bielefeld.

Visits to Notkirche at Garrel and Bakum on way to Oldenburg for overnight. Varel DP settlement. Delmanhorst. Via Muenster to Dortmund. Villigst student, apprentice and conference center. Visit to Marl-Huils, new coal and industrial center with three new 10,000-soul parishes set up.
26-27 - Stuttgart (Elizabeth Urbig). Dornstadt DP Home. Overnight at Ulm
28-30 - Berne, Switzerland
30-
September 5 - Geneva (conference with Inter-Church Aid staff)
5-12 - Rome, Italy
12-14 - Vienna, Austria
15-20 - Budapest, Hungary, Reformed Theological Academy
22 - Arrive U.S.A.
25 - Cincinnati, Ohio, SERMON, First Church

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SYNOD PRESIDENTS

NOVEMBER 2-3, 1955

HOTEL CLEVELAND, CLEVELAND, OHIO

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 2:

9:30 - Devotions - The Rev. James W. Moyer, President of Mercersburg Synod

10:00 - Organization of Conference

Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda
Appointment of Committee on Findings

10:15 - United Promotion of Kingdom Service

The Rev. Carl W. Klein, D.D., and the Rev. L. C. T. Miller, D.D.
Associate Directors of Department of United Promotion

The Rev. Perry L. Smith, D. D., National Field Secretary,
Department of United Promotion

1. Pastor's Plan Book
2. Proposed new method of laying the apportionment
3. Report on the Kingdom Roll Call aspects of the Joint project with the Congregational Christian Churches
4. The Synodical Committee on United Promotion

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

11:15 - The Rev. James E. Wagner, D. D., LL.D., President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

1. Procedural and Administrative Forms and their Use.
2. Expediting the assignment and placement of Seminary Seniors
3. Licensure of Seminary Seniors

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

12:15 - Recess

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 2:

2:00 - Panel Discussion - "Streamlining Procedures in the Spring Meetings of Synods"

1. Methods of handling committee reports
2. Avoiding duplication of resolutions from various committees
3. Making provision for adequate discussion of questions and resolutions which are controversial or which require ample time for clarification.

Moderator - The Rev. Truman A. Crist, D.D., President, Lancaster Synod
Panelists - The Rev. Paul Rahmeier, President, Missouri Valley Synod
The Rev. Emil Bassler, President, Northwest Ohio Synod
The Rev. Clarence Moyer, President, Susquehanna Synod
The Rev. Julius W. Kuck, President, West New York Synod

3:30 - Panel Discussion - "The Full-Time President - General Job-Analysis and By-Law 66 P".

Moderator - The Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, D.D., Administrative Assistant to the President.
Panelists - The Rev. Harvey W. Black, D.D., President, Pittsburgh Synod
The Rev. John G. Mueller, President, Texas Synod
The Rev. Perry L. Smith, D.D., National Field Secretary, Department of United Promotion
The Rev. Ben M. Herbster, D.D., Member of General Council, and Chairman of Committee on Job-Analysis of the Full-Time President's Office.

5:30 - Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2:

7:30 - Devotions - The Rev. John Flucke, President, California Synod.

8:00 - Address - "The Ministry in the Congregational Christian Churches".

The Rev. Fred Buschmeyer, D. D., Interim Minister of the Congregational Christian Churches.

Address - "The Office and Work of the Conference Superintendents of the Congregational Christian Churches."

The Rev. Everett A. Babcock, D.D., Superintendent of the Ohio Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches

(A question and discussion period will follow these two addresses)

9:30 - Adjournment

THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 3:

9:00 - Devotions - The Rev. Paul T. Slinghoff, D.D., President, Reading Synod

9:30 - 1. The Program of the Commission on Church and Ministry
2. Forms and Procedures for Granting Student Loans

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

The Rev. Harold Wilke, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry

10:30 - The Proposed ADVANCE PROGRAM for the Evangelical and Reformed Church for the Next Triennium.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

The Rev. Purd E. Deitz, D.D., General Secretary, Board of National Missions.

11:30 - "Synod Presidents and The Messenger"

The Rev. Theodore C. Braun, D.D., Editor, THE MESSENGER

12:00 - Recess

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 3:

1:30 - "The Synods and the Treasurer of the Church"

Dr. Fred A. Keck, Treasurer, Evangelical and Reformed Church

2:00 - "Statistical and Parochial Reports"

The Rev. W. Sherman Kerschner, Secretary, Evangelical and Reformed Church.

2:30 - "The Union Up-to-Date"

The Rev. James E. Wagner, D.D., LL.D., President of the Church

3:30 - Miscellaneous questions for discussion.
(Fall Meetings, World Service, Theological questions)

4:30 - Adjournment

TENTATIVE PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 1956 GENERAL SYNOD

The hours which are marked by asterisks are orders of the day. They must be followed unless changed by a two-thirds vote of the General Synod.

The periods of time allotted for reports or topics are maximums. Many matters will probably be completed in less than the time provided. Those which are not completed within the allotted period shall go over until the first free or open time.

In connection with a report or any other matter members of the General Synod, other than officers of the Church, may speak only once and shall be limited to five minutes. Delegates at large, however, may speak as long as ten minutes in connection with the reports of their respective boards, commissions or agencies. These provisions may be changed only by a majority vote of the General Synod.

Friday, August 31, 1956

7:30 p.m. Opening service
  Liturgists: Dr. Robert C. Stanger and Dr. W. Sherman Kerschner
  Sermon: The President of the Church
    Theme: "The Mind of God in His Church"
      Text: "It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us."
        Acts 15: 28
  Scriptures: Acts 15: 22-31
    St. Matthew 18: 15-20
  The Holy Communion
    Celebrants: Dr. Charles D. Spotts, Dr. Allan S. Meck and the Rev. Truman A. Crist

Saturday, September 1, 1956

9:00 a.m. Devotional service: Dr. Ben M. Herbster
  Theme: "The Universal Church"

* 9:20 a.m. Organization of the General Synod
  Record of attendance
  Addresses of welcome:
    The Rev. Truman A. Crist, President of Lancaster Synod
    The Rev. William Webster Hall, President of Franklin and Marshall College
    The Rev. Allan S. Meck, President of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster
  Defining the bar of the house
  Report of Committee 27 on Credentials, Excuses and Visitors
  Election of the moderator and the vice-moderator

Adoption of the program and schedule

Announcment of the appointment of committees

Presentation of the official reports and other documents and their reference to committees

* 9:20 a.m. (cont.) Report of Committee 1 on Religious Services and Convocation

Report of Committee 5 on Overtures
    Part 1 - Reference of overtures to committees

Reports of Officers
    President
    Secretary
    Treasurer

* 11:40 a.m. Memorial service

12:00 m. Recess

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The General Synod will not convene in plenary session but will meet by committees.

7:30 p.m. Preview of film(s)

Sunday, September 2, 1956

Morning: Ministers attending the General Synod will occupy pulpits of churches of the area

8:00 p.m. Spiritual Convocation in Williamson Field (in case of inclement weather, in Hensel Hall)

Sermon: Dr. Douglas Horton, Dean of the Divinity School of Harvard University, former Minister of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches

Theme:

Monday, September 3, 1956

9:00 a.m. Devotional service: Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann
    Theme: "Our Reformation Heritage"

* 9:20 a.m. Minutes

Urgent business

* 9:40 a.m. Report of Committee 2 on Minutes of the General Synod

Report of Committee 4 on Minutes of the Synods

* 10:00 a.m. Report of Committee 3a on the Reports of the President and the Secretary

* 10:30 a.m. Report of Committee 3c on the General Council's Report on the Coming Union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches

12:00 m. Recess

	2:00 p.m.	Hymn; prayer by
*	2:05 p.m.	Report of Committee 5 on Overtures, completed Urgent business
*	2:15 p.m.	Report of Committee 24 on Nominations First Vice-President (6 years) Second Vice-President (6 years) Secretary (6 years) Members of the General Council (6 years)
*	2:45 p.m.	Report of Committee 3b on Reports of the General Council and the Trustees Report of Committee 3d on Reports of the Department of United Promotion
*	4:45 p.m.	Elections
	5:00 p.m.	Recess
*	7:30 p.m.	Report of Committee 6 on Report of the Board of National Missions Report of Committee 14 on Report of the Commission on Higher Education
	9:30 p.m.	Recess

Tuesday, September 4, 1956

	9:00 a.m.	Devotional service: Dr. Ben M. Herbster Theme: "The Universal Church"
*	9:20 a.m.	Minutes Urgent business Report of Committee 24 on Nominations Members of boards, commissions, committees and auxiliary organizations Delegates to interdenominational bodies
*	10:00 a.m.	Report of Committee 9 on Report of the Board of Business Management
*	11:00 a.m.	Report of Committee 10 on Report of the Board of Pensions and Relief
	12:00 m.	Recess
	2:00 p.m.	Hymn; prayer by
*	2:05 p.m.	Elections
*	2:25 p.m.	Report of Committee 8 on Report of the Board of Christian Education and Publication
*	3:25 p.m.	Report of Committee 13 on Report of the Commission on Christian Social Action
*	4:25 p.m.	Unfinished business

5:00 p.m. Recess

* 7:30 p.m. Report of Committee 22 on Ecumenical Matters (Reports of the Committee on Closer Relations with Other Churches and of the Delegates to Interdenominational Bodies)

Address: Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., member of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the World Holding the Presbyterian Order

9:30 p.m. Recess

Wednesday, September 5, 1956

9:00 a.m. Devotional service: Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann
Theme: "Our Reformation Heritage"

* 9:20 a.m. Minutes

Urgent Business

Elections

* 10:00 a.m. Report of Committee 12 on Report of the Commission on Evangelism
* 10:45 a.m. Report of Committee 15 on Report of the Commission on Stewardship
* 11:15 a.m. Report of Committee 18 on Report of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions
* 11:45 a.m. Unfinished business

12:00 m. Recess

2:00 p.m. Hymn; prayer by

* 2:05 p.m. Report of Committee 21 on Report of the Women's Guild
* 2:50 p.m. Report of Committee 20 on Report of the Churchmen's Brotherhood
* 3:30 p.m. Report of Committee 3e on Report of the Committee on Constitutional Matters
* 4:00 p.m. Report of Committee 3f on Report of the Study Committee

Unfinished business

5:00 p.m. Recess

* 7:30 p.m. Report of Committee 7 on Report of the Board of International Missions

Introduction of missionaries and native visitors from mission fields

* 8:30 p.m. Address: "Christ Calls to Mission and Unity" by Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, or Rev. Robert S. Bilheimer, or other representative of the World Council of Churches

9:30 p.m. Recess

Thursday, September 6, 1956

9:00 a.m.	Devotional service: Dr. Ben M. Herbster Theme: "The Universal Church"
* 9:20 a.m.	Minutes
	Urgent business
	Elections
* 10:00 a.m.	Report of Committee 17 on Report of the Commission on Church and Ministry
* 11:00 a.m.	Report of Committee 19 on Reports of the Committee on Liturgics, the Historical Committee and the Theological Committee
12:00 m.	Recess
* 2:00 p.m.	Hymn; prayer by
* 2:05 p.m.	Report of Committee 23 on Treasurer's Report and Finance
	Unfinished business
5:00 p.m.	Recess
* 7:30 p.m.	Report of Committee 16 on Report of the Commission on World Service
	Address by Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich
9:30 p.m.	Recess

Friday, September 7, 1956

9:00 a.m.	Devotional service: Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann Theme: "Our Reformation Heritage"
* 9:20 a.m.	Minutes
	Urgent business
	Elections
* 10:00 a.m.	Report of Committee 11 on Report of the Board of Investments
* 10:15 a.m.	Report of the Judicial Commission
	Unfinished business
12:00 m.	Recess
2:00 p.m.	Hymn; prayer by

* 2:05 p.m. Report of Committee 27 on Credentials, Excuses and Visitors

Report of Committee 28 on Equalization of Travel Expenses

Report of Committee 26 on Correlation of Reports and Special Resolutions

Reports of special committees

Conclusion of all unfinished business

Final report of attendance

Reading and adoption of minutes pending adjournment

* 3:30 p.m. Installation and consecration of new officers

Closing religious service
The Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, "The Church's One Foundation," benediction

4:30 p.m. Adjournment

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

To the General Council:

The work of the Secretary of the Church follows a pattern which is well known to the members of the General Council. I trust, therefore, that instead of offering a detailed report upon the matters within my area of responsibility I need only state that I have endeavored to attend to all of them as efficiently as possible. A few matters, however, require special mention.

Ministers and Congregations

The following information concerning ministers and congregations of the Church has been reported to me by the presidents of the synods concerned:

Ministers

Rev. Bertram J. Sathmary was dismissed by Magyar Synod to the Reformed Church in America on June 23, 1955.

Rev. William F. Huebner and Rev. Donald E. Steinhardt were erased from the roll of North Illinois Synod as of June 7, 1955.

Rev. Frank Settlage was erased from the roll of South Wisconsin Synod as of September 9, 1955.

Congregations

The Mt. Zion Charge of Mercersburg Synod has been dissolved. Christ Church at Starview and Quickel's Church at Zions View have been constituted the Starview-Quickel Charge, and Mt. Zion Church has been made a separate charge. Both charges are vacant at present.

The Hains-Yocum Charge of Reading Synod has been discontinued. Christ (Yocums) Church near Reading, Pa., was made a constituent of the Allegheny Charge as of May 1, 1955. St. John (Hains) Church at Wernersville, Pa., is now a separate charge.

The Schwarzwald Charge of Reading Synod also has been discontinued, St. Paul Church at Birdsboro and Schwarzwald Church at Jacksonwald, Pa., having been made separate charges as of June 1, 1955. Rev. Warren A. Breisch, formerly pastor of the Schwarzwald Charge, is now pastor of the Schwarzwald Church. St. Paul Church is without a pastor.

Trinity Church at Menominee, Mich., North Wisconsin Synod, was dissolved as of July 14, 1955.

Salem Church at Crooked Run, Ohio, Southeast Ohio Synod, was dissolved as of May 4, 1955.

More 100% Synods Needed

A consummation devoutly to be wished is a much larger number of synods that attain the 100% goal in submitting their annual congregational statistics. Only 17 of the 34 synods attained the coveted goal this year. Listed in the order of priority they are as follows: Southern, California, Mercersburg, Pacific Northwest, Lehigh, South Indiana, Lancaster, Reading, Northeast Ohio, South Wisconsin, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, South Illinois, Northern, Southwest Ohio, Central Pennsylvania and Potomac. The fact that only 65 congregational reports are still outstanding cannot help but make one wonder whether, by dint of effort on the part of the presidents of the synods and the pastors of the congregations involved, there might not have been 100% returns. I plan to challenge the synod presidents to a still greater effort in this matter when I address them on the subject of statistics at their meeting in November.

The 1956 Year Book

The 1956 Year Book is being printed by Eden Publishing House, which also did the work last year. While their bid this year was not the lowest submitted, the difference was so small that it was deemed advisable to award them the contract because of their relationship to our Church.

Again we have learned that there is a huge difference in preparing a book for publication when it is printed by a concern 1100 miles distant rather than by one only six city blocks away. Nevertheless, Eden Publishing House has been very cooperative and most helpful in many ways. The fact that the 1956 Year Book will be somewhat late in making its appearance is in no sense the fault of the publishing house. Among the contributory factors a circumstance which was paralyzing in its effect was the sudden death of Mr. A. J. Arbogast, who for many years was the solicitor of the commercial advertisements for the Year Book. Immediately after his death it was necessary for me to confer with members of his family concerning the completion of his work for the 1956 Year Book. They were as helpful as they could possibly be, but a delay in issuing the book could not be avoided. What another year may bring forth in this area remains to be seen, for the place made vacant by the death of Mr. Arbogast will be difficult to fill. In the 1955 Year Book I devoted an entire page to a testimonial to his sterling character and his faithful service in behalf of the Year Book.

New Designation

With the advent of the full-time presidents of synods a new designation was necessary in the Register of Ministers, there being no current designation that applied to this new group. After conferring with the members of the General Council's Committee on the Year Book and with a goodly number of other leaders, it was decided that the new designation should be FSP, i. e., Full-time Synod President.

It was also decided that the caption "Designations of Ministers without Charge" should be shortened to "Designations of Ministers," a change which will admit of additional designations, if needed, without creating a new category.

Both the new designation and the revised caption will appear in the 1956 Year Book.

Students for the Ministry

For some time considerable interest has centered in the number of students for the ministry we have in our Church. It was therefore decided to take a census not only of the number enrolled in our denominational schools but also the number enrolled in other institutions. It was further decided that in addition to a report on the number of students for the ministry the names of the students should be included in the forthcoming issue of the Year Book. However, a strict requirement was that only those should be listed who had been approved by the Committees on Church and Ministry of their respective synods. The presidents of the synods cooperated most willingly in furnishing the names of such students. According to the reports received, we have 494 students for the ministry in our denominational schools and 208 in schools other than our own, making a grand total of 702.

I feel confident that this new feature of the Year Book will be well received throughout the Church.

Revised Report Form

The General Council last February voted that a special committee be appointed to study and possibly revise the form for the report of the Committee on Church and Ministry of a congregation or charge. As constituted by the Administrative Committee the special committee was composed of the undersigned as chairman and Revs. James W. Moyer and Paul H. Rahmeier, full-time presidents of their respective synods, with Dr. Mackey as consultant. A meeting of the committee was held in my office last July. A discussion of the report form led to changes which should make the report more satisfactory both to those who compile it and those who evaluate it. A consideration of the uses to which the report should be put resulted in a decision that it should be prepared in triplicate, the original copy to be sent to the synod president, the duplicate copy to be sent to the executive secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry, and the triplicate copy, or work sheet, to be retained by the Committee on Church and Ministry of the congregation or charge.

American Bible Society

As a representative of our Church on the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society I included in my report to the General Council last February a plea for this worthy organization, with special emphasis upon the opportunity for providing financial support of the Society on Universal Bible Sunday, which occurs on the second Sunday in December. The General Council requested that I transmit to the American Bible Society a recommendation that in its monthly record of contributions received from the churches it include not only the amounts received directly from congregations but also those credited to local chapters of the Society, as well as the contributions received from individuals.

Having carried out this reference from the General Council I received from Dr. Robert T. Taylor of the American Bible Society a reply from which I quote the following excerpts:

"In our monthly report to the Evangelical and Reformed Church we include every amount which we know to have been received from Evangelical and Reformed churches.

"I do not understand the reference to local chapters. There are a few State and City Bible Societies but in some cases these operate independently. If we receive the money we give credit to the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Naturally, we cannot credit it if an organization such as the New York Bible Society, which is entirely separate, receives the money and keeps it for its own purposes.

"Whenever individuals inquire we suggest that they send their gifts through the local church. It is impossible for us to keep a record of the denominational affiliations of the individuals who give to us. We appeal to individuals by a program of direct mail. I am certain no church would want us to stop this. We are not competing with church giving but with giving to national health organizations and all the other groups which appeal through the mails. If we tried to keep track of denominational affiliations it would cost us more than we received.

"At the present time I have three girls who do nothing but look up gifts which come from churches. In many cases it is difficult to determine the denominational connection of the church. If we tried to do this with individuals we just couldn't handle it."

Respectfully submitted,

W. SHERMAN KERSCHNER, Secretary.

THE COMMISSION ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY

October 1, 1955

REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
(Items requiring action by General Council: Paragraphs: 10, 13, 19)
(Others for information or notation)

Reverend Brethren:

1. It is indeed a joy to me that I can offer herewith my first report to the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, having now been duly installed in the office of Executive Secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry.

2. Pursuant to the approval by the General Council of my name, as presented by the Commission at the last meeting of the General Council in New Orleans in February, I took office on June 1st. The office location, by vote of the Commission, was to be 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, and I therefore arranged for new space in that building.

3. Prior to our coming to Cleveland, Mrs. Wilke and I had arranged for housing, and we (and the bank!) have bought a comfortable home in Southwest Cleveland, in the village of Middleburg Heights, not too far from one of our Evangelical and Reformed Churches.

4. My first month in office was spent largely in several field trips, the plans for which had been laid during the year previous. These field trips, for the Committee on In-Service Training of the Commission, assured me of the value of such special conferences in pastoral work, preaching and counseling. The men whom we reached were deeply appreciative of what the Commission was doing.

5. During July and August I felt I could acquaint myself with the files of the various Committees of General Council and of General Synod, Life Enlistment, Chaplains, etc., which now are gathered together in Cleveland. I felt that I would have plenty of time for this during the summer months. I was amazed to note that I had to sandwich in the looking over the files, because there was a genuine flood of correspondence asking for help and for information about the work of the Commission. There is a warm and positive response on the part of our clergy to this new Commission, and there were many letters of approval for the implementation by the General Council of the original report of the study committee, that such a Commission be established.

6. The Commission and the Church at large are deeply indebted to the work of the Rev. Edward W. Brueseke, D.D., who has served as the acting Executive Secretary during the first eighteen months of the life of the Commission. As one reads over these files he can not but be humbled as he reviews the amount of work that was done. The work of the Commission and the Executive Secretary is made much easier by the pioneering already accomplished. Deep gratitude needs also to be expressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Life Enlistemnt, the Rev. Charles Schwantes, for eight years of service in the former Committee on Life Enlistment of General Council.

(6 continued)
The Church is indebted to the Rev. Calvin Wingert, D.D., Chairman of the Committee on Chaplains, for fifteen years of service to the former Committee on Chaplains of the General Council and the former Committee on Chaplains of the World Service Commission. Other members of the Commission have also served loyally and well.

7. The Commission has met three times each year, in January, May and September. For two years now the September meeting has been combined with a meeting of all of the Synodical Chairmen from the Synods of the Church. We have held this to be necessary because of the change-over on the Committee work within the Synod, from a Board of Examiners to a Committee on Church and Ministry. The Commission felt that Committee Chairmen or their representatives should have as much opportunity as possible to see the full work of the Commission and the Committee and not limit it merely to the work of the former Board of Examiners.

8. At the meeting last month, the various chairmen presented the particular problems of their committees within Synod, and heard from members of the Commission of the various aspects of the program of the whole Commission. A number of comments and suggestions were made which we feel constrained to pass on to General Council.

9. One concern was several times expressed: that the membership of the Synodical Committee on Church and Ministry be enlarged in order to fulfill all the aspects the work placed upon it by General Synod (At present the by-laws require three ministers and one layman). It was recommended by the Committee Chairmen that the Synod Committee consist of six persons, at least two of whom shall be laymen. Several of the Synodical Chairmen plan to present this as overtures from their Synods to General Synod.

10. Another action of the Commission was the selection of two additional members to fulfill the unexpired terms of two members of the Commission both of whom were required to resign; as follows:
    The Rev. Paul Irion was elected by the Commission, subject to the approval of General Council, to fill my own unexpired term, through 1959.
    The Rev. Harold C. Baer was elected to fulfill the unexpired term, to 1956, of the Rev. Dr. Truman Crist who resigned because of his election to the full time Presidency of Lancaster Synod. These names are presented to General Council, trusting that they will be approved as members of the Commission.

11. A third item came out of our meeting in September, the proposed "Handbook" on the Committee on Church and Ministry in the local congregation. The present form of the handbook is the final result of a great deal of work over the past two years by the Committee on Pastoral Relations of the Commission. The Commission itself is of a divided mind about the proposed draft. Individually members of the Commission have not been sure in their own minds that this pamphlet should be published at all. Some members of the Commission had felt that the publication of such a pamphlet as this could actually cause or foment trouble in the local congregation in the relationship of pastor and people. There is also a strong feeling on the parts of some that no special committee needs to exist within the local congregation, because the work which this Committee would ordinarily do is already covered by the Council of Elders, or Spiritual Council.

(11 continued)
During the course of the September meeting, several chairmen of Synodical Committees took strong exception to the inclusion of a "code of ethics" for the pastor. We continue therefore to proceed quite slowly on the proposed manual. At present your Executive Secretary is redrafting the Manual, for presentation to the Synod Presidents' meeting in early November. Then it will be published in tentative form, and sent to all pastors for consideration.

12. The General Council recommended in February 1954 that the publication of the EaR and other aspects of the ministry to service men should be moved from the jurisdiction of the World Service Commission to that of the Commission on Church and Ministry. This has been done, and copies of the EaR are now being prepared and sent out from the Commission office in Cleveland.

13. The Commission on World Service and our Commission were left somewhat in doubt about a minute of the General Council, that "this Commission would aid only in defense areas". We feel that the Commission on Church and Ministry should not work in defense areas, that that is entirely beyond its scope or jurisdiction. We interpret this wording to mean that our Commission has no responsibility for defense communities.

14. Other possibilities for an "overlapping ministry" have been or are being worked out, we feel, to the satisfaction of all concerned. By now we have defined our area of ministry fairly explicitly, and we will continue to work within that area.

15. The recommendation of the General Council that the In-Service Training Committee of the Commission should plan to introduce Evanston Material, is being followed.

16. The reference from General Council, requesting clarification of the status of the religious workers and Directors of Religious Education has been referred by the Commission's Committee on Pastoral Relations to the Theological Committee of General Council, and action is promised.

17. The request by General Council that this Commission be a part of Group III in the permanent groups of zonal representatives is being followed.

18. The reference from General Council concerning a theologically restricted bequest for theological students is being acted upon in conference with Dr. Sheeder.

19. General Council's reference concerning applications for "Privilege of Call" received from foreign pastors: The Commission feels:

    A. In re Licensure: the by-laws of the Church provide for this.
    B. With respect to financial assistance, the Commission "recommends to General Council that should applications be made for financial assistance, such individual cases shall be considered as they arise by General Council, and that no general limitations on such aid should be established."

20. Reference from the General Council of the problem of establishing a church home for Military personnel and their families; lengthy discussion ensued, but no action was taken.

21. It is our understanding that this session of General Council does not request a budget, and therefore the budget for the Commission will be presented at the February meeting of General Council.

22. The Commission continues to function through its committees, as follows:

Life Enlistment	Rev. Charles W. Schwantes, Chairman
Student Care	Rev. Albert G. Gonser, D. D., Chairman
In-Service Training	Rev. Edward W. Brueseke, D. D., Chairman
Pastoral Relations	Rev. Harold C. Baer, Chairman (Pursuant to approval of General Council)
Military Chaplains and Men in Service	Rev. Calvin H. Wingert, D.D., Chairman
Religion and Health	Rev. Paul E. Irion, Chairman (Pursuant to approval by General Council)

Other members of the Commission include the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Harold M. Baumler; the Secretary, Mr. Floyd E. Heller; Mrs. Hugo Schuessler; Mr. Cecil D. Stargel.

23. The Commission has unanimously voted to participate fully in the Program of Advance, and plans to express its goal in terms of life enlistment, to work toward filling the need for more and better pastors.

24. Pre-publication reports of the Niebuhr Williams Gustafson Committee on Theological Education indicate that a major concern of educators at present is this:
Providing a Theological education within the present structure of four years of college and three years of seminary that will be broad enough to equip the student for all of his later ministry. The report indicates a general feeling that this can not be done, and that an imperative need for these days is that of In-Service Training, refresher courses, clinical training, sabbatical leave, etc. Our Commission has felt keenly this need on the part of our pastors; and will continue to provide all in its power and budget to make such additional post-graduate study available to our pastors, in the form of retreats, conferences in pastoral care, institutes for pastors, minister's family camps, etc. This aspect of the program of the Commission has received wide and warm commendation from many of our pastors.

25. A harmonious working relationship has been carried on for the past several years within the Commission, each Committee accepting primary responsibilities for its own area of service, and at the same time finding its policies generally defined by the Commission as a whole. We are convinced that our work will continue as strongly and amicably as heretofore. We are proud of the personnel of our Commission, and humbly confident as we face the great tasks entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

HW:GK

HAROLD WILKE, Executive Secretary

Report of the Joint Committee

Appointed by the General Council and the Board of Business Management

The joint committee appointed by the General Council and the Board of Business Management to consider the possible reactivation of obligations on the Schaff Building, written off by the General Council at meetings held on June 19, 1945 and September 20-22, 1949, met at the Schaff Building in Philadelphia on Monday, August 29, 1955, at 9:30 A.M. The Committee was charged with the responsibility of recommending which of the obligations written off as above indicated should be reactivated and what the order of priority should be in such reactivation. All members of the Committee were present as follows:

Representing the General Council - John R.C. Haas, John Lentz and Samuel C. Bond

Representing the Board of Business Management: Henry I. Stahr, William C. Mingle

The Committee organized by naming Dr. Haas as chairman and Dr. Stahr as Secretary.

The Committee made a careful study of its assignment and voted that, since funds are now becoming available from the earnings of the Schaff Building to make reactivation possible, the following recommendations be submitted for approval to the General Council and to the Board of Business Management, it being understood that they take priority in the order listed:

1. That the payment of interest on endowment funds invested in the Building be resumed as of February 1, 1956 at an interest rate of 4% and that no retroactive interest be paid for the period during which the funds invested in the Building were written off.

2. That in the payment of interest on the following endowment funds it be specified that said interest go for the objectives for which the funds were originally established:

A. Children's Endowment Fund — $26,072.35

(A trust fund of which the income is to be used to start new Sunday Schools and to help the religious educational work of all the Sunday Schools of the Church)

B. Woman's Missionary Society of the General Synod Daily Vacation Bible School Fund — $12,000.00

(Given by the Woman's Missionary Society of the Reformed Church in the United States the income to be used for the promotion of Daily Vacation Bible Schools in mission churches of the Reformed Church in the United States)

C. Children's Christian Education Foundation — $11,141.27

(The income to be used for the educational, missionary and young people's work of the former Publication and Sunday School Board of the Reformed Church in the United States)

D. The Augustus L. Kaub Fund — $ 2,000.00

(The income to be used for the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, a men's brotherhood organization founded by Rufus W. Miller of the Reformed Church in the United States.)

E. James I. Good Historical Fund — $ 5,000.00

(Given for Schaff Building Endowment with interest accruing for historical publication purposes)

The Committee recommends that income from the funds listed under A, B and C go to the Board of Christian Education and Publication for the purposes indicated; that income from the fund listed as D go to the Churchmen's Brotherhood; that income from the fund listed as E go to the treasury of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to be used in the financing of the production of historical publications.

3. That interest on the following endowment funds totaling $51,015.00 be paid to the Board of Christian Education and Publication for the general educational and missionary work of the Board:

Mrs. Adam M. Frantz Sunday School Fund	$100.00
Mrs. Sue E. Barnhart Children's Endowment Fund	500.00
Philip Daubenspeck Sunday School Fund	8,000.00
Jacob S. Fry Sunday School Fund	5,635.00
Rev. J.B. Shontz Endowment Fund	2,500.00
Harriet McCauley Schnebly Endowment Fund	600.00
Mrs. Linda L. Kaub Endowment Fund	8,500.00
Levi D. Lutz Sunday School Fund	3,000.00
Jacob Haak and Mary Ann Goodhart Hain Sunday School Fund	500.00
William E. and Georgina Smith Endowment Fund	2,000.00
Mrs. Simon Messman Fund	200.00
Rev. Silas M. Hench Endowment Fund	1,180.00
Sally J. Riegel Sunday School Fund	1,000.00
Rufus W. and Katherine McCauley Miller Fund	3,000.00
Margaret E. and S. Rebecca Thomas Fund	3,000.00
Mrs. C.B. Wickersham Fund	100.00
Elizabeth Lefevre Fund	100.00
Mrs. Emma Andrews and Mrs. Kate Greenawalt Sunday School Fund	5,000.00
Mrs. Mary Ida Rupp Fund	500.00
Lewis D. Freeman Fund	500.00
Rev. Isaac H. Reiter Sunday School Fund	2,000.00
Rev. Nathaniel Z. Snyder Fund	2,100.00
Mrs. L. Virginia Schmitt Fund	500.00
Mrs. Sarah Schwenk Fund	500.00
Total	$51,015.00

4. That, since endowment funds of "The Messenger" invested in the Schaff Building totaled $35,365.05 and $30,000.00 has already been contributed through the Board of Business Management and the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation towards Messenger endowment, the sum of $5,365.05 (representing the unpaid balance) be contributed for this same purpose and be turned over to the Board of Investments for inclusion with the amounts previously contributed for Messenger endowment.

5. That, since repayment of $10,000 has already been made on the amount of $19,700.00, written off by action of the General Council at its meeting held on Sept. 20-22, 1945, priority be next given, as funds become available, to the repayment of the remaining amount of $9,700.00.

6. That in making repayment of the following obligations:

Due the Board of Christian Education and Publication for interest	$28,466.77
Loans payable to the Heidelberg Press	65,450.00
Due the Heidelberg Press for interest	20,644.89

priority be given as funds become available, to the repayment of the loans advanced by the Heidelberg Press in the amount of $65,450.00 before any repayment of the interest items is made.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Committee,
John R.C. Haas, Chairman
Henry I. Stahr, Secretary

PROGRAM OF ADVANCE - 1957 - 1958 - 1959

Christ calls to faith and action, now!

Our Lord's call to faith and action is of paramount importance in this immediate future. It is necessary and desirable that we look ahead with faith to the future and take action to move forward courageously to meet the needs which face our congregations. We advance singly and in fellowship with other congregations.

> (When the General Synod meets in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, late in the summer of 1956, the delegates will have before them the responsibility to plan the program of the Church for at least three years, whether or not the United Church is consummated.)

The focal point of any program of advance is in the local church. Success or failure of such a program depends upon each congregation and each member.

Yet we are not alone. We work together as members of a great Christian fellowship, the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Working together within this fellowship we set forth our goals, in a program of advance which must surely represent the vision and capacities of our churches. The program is based upon the fact that our Evangelical and Reformed Church is ready to accept a great increase in the program to which Christ calls us. All of us together - as lay persons and as ministers - have made tremendous progress in our desire to dedicate ourselves more fully to Christ's work in the world. We are ever eager to learn in what new ways God is calling us to serve.

In the light of the unmet needs of our communities, our nation, and the world in our day, the present program needs enlargement. We are in a period of revolution, change and expansion which challenges our best efforts.- All over the world, old patterns of life are changing. European colonialism is vanishing from Asia and and Africa, while a great power struggle goes on between East and West. The role of the church becomes increasingly significant while pressures mount against her influence in non-Christian lands. Population increases multiply despite famine and disease, with great possibilities opening for international and inter-church aid and exchange.

The United States presents a great opportunity with 4,000,000 births each year and the building of new homes and new communities at an unprecedented rate. A population of 200,000,000 is forecast for 1970 or sooner. Population movements of tremendous magnitude increase the opportunities for church expansion, while the awakening of a sense of spiritual need challenges the church to meet that hunger in terms of the complete Gospel.

Both at home and abroad men and women struggle to see the meaning of their daily lives and relationships. Our culture and our civilization, the environment in which we bring up our children and the education we provide for them, the patterns of economic life and race relations, national politics and our relations to other nations - these are major concerns for Christian witness and action. The Church has the responsibility of relating its faith more effectively to the problems of justice and community in local, national and international life.

In response to this need and the preparation which the Holy Spirit is making in our hearts, this program of advance is proposed. It is not a campaign, with special organization and procedures. It is not a fund-raising effort, although such a program will require greatly increased financial support. It is based upon our loyalty to Christ and our obedience to His call as our living, active Lord and

Master. God is at work in the world today, and demands our obedience in witness and service.

This proposal aims to set forth in a unified way the entire work of the church, as a complete picture so that every member may understand it and share in it. Our church has always had a program, but often, because it was undertaken and promoted by so many different agencies, it was easily possible to miss the unity and importance of the whole task. In the proposed Advance, however, the boards, commissions and agencies of the church are cooperating fully to offer a united program in a way which will enable every earnest church member to see his or her part in it.

The very heart of the Advance is in the local church. The boards and commissions act as agents for the congregations, doing for them all together what they find it difficult to do alone. Many goals, therefore, can be reached best through united effort, such as a great program of expansion or missionary activity. Moreover, the various agencies of the church are equipped to render service to congregations and members along many diverse lines. But the objective always is to serve and extend the influence of the local church and the local church member. We as members of individual congregations need to accept these goals as our personal responsibility.

GOALS

The program looks forward to a great advance along these general lines: (A) a new outreach in membership and missions, (B) a greater commitment to Christian living, and (C) a wider participation in Christian service. For each line of advance, specific goals have been suggested which involve individuals, families, organizations and congregations as well as the cooperative efforts of synods and denominational agencies.

These goals are briefly outlined as follows, for the triennium:

(A) OUTREACH

1. 100 New Churches in North America
2. 100 New Missionaries and Overseas Workers
3. 200,000 New Church Members

(B) COMMITMENT

4. 700 More Candidates for Church-Related Vocations
5. Every Family at Worship in Church and at Home
6. Every Member in Educational Program of the Church

(C) SERVICE

7. Every Congregation Engaged in Community Service and Social Action
8. Every Congregation Participating in World Witness and Service
9. Every Member a Proportionate Giver of Time, Talent and Treasure

FULFILLMENT

To reach these goals a stronger witness is required of every one of us as church members, and a wider program of action is required of every board and agency of the denomination. Just as the local congregation will fulfill its recognition of increased need by an increased budget, so also the agencies of the church will require an increased budget in order to fulfill these requirements of the church and of our Lord and Master. The very minimum goals would require a 20% increase each year in the apportionment receipts to make the program begin to be effective.

(Furthermore, this method of 20% annual increases seems more feasible than a flat 45% increase which the budgeted needs would aggregate over the three year period.)